

## Hamrick Report (First Quarter 2018)

I know that you are kept informed by the VISION Newsletter produced by WBI but I wanted to give you some additional information relative to the first quarter of this year. We are off to a great start, or should I say, God is off to a great start! Here are some of the highlights of the year thus far:

### Family News:

We have recently moved to **Grandview, TX**. It is a small town just south of Ft. Worth, TX. Our new mailing address is 906 S. Fourth Street, Grandview, TX 76050. We are a little further away from the airport but closer to **Pat and Cheryl McIntosh** who are part of the WBI family. We love our small congregation and have seen remarkable growth recently. **Rhonda** has agreed to serve as the church secretary and I do some preaching and teaching on occasion. The school system in Grandview has a great program for **Bailey**, and **Caleb** is soon to graduate from Harding University. He will then come home and enroll into the program at Brown Trail School of Preaching.

### COSTA RICA

**Raphael Barrantes** is the Director of the Theological Institute of Costa Rica, our new extension school in San Jose. The school is located at the Coronado church of Christ. It is just 45 minutes from the center of San Jose, the capital city. The Coronado congregation is about 80 in number but have built a facility that can seat 300. They are expecting to grow. The leadership of that congregation has taken out a loan of \$75,000 to remodel the facility for the new school of preaching. We need to help brethren who are willing to invest that much in the work. I plan to go visit the school soon.



The school has started with 17 students. One of the students is **Daniel** (pictured). He and his wife **Yourling** are from Loma Linda, San Jose. They come from the church of Christ in San Diego. They need financial support. The average cost to support a student is approximately \$500/month. If you can help Daniel prepare to preach the gospel in Central America, please send support to WBI and mark it "Costa Rica".

### WEST AFRICA

The work in Ghana and Togo is really blossoming. We now have 37 students enrolled in the Volta Bible College (including the Graduate Program). Our librarian is doing a great job organizing the books with the Dewey Decimal system. Several churches and individuals have donated books for the school. Thanks to Mission Printing in Arlington, TX, a new shipment of about 2,000 volumes is scheduled to arrive sometime in June.

The poultry project is expanding with 200 new young beds. Chickens not only serve to feed the students but are also sold in the market to provide for other student needs. A new water well is



producing water for the farm project, however, the local farmers are using our farm to feed their cows! We have an armed guard on the property but he shot one of the “trespassing” cows. We were not charged with any crime as the police ate the cow and no evidence was available. VBC paid to replace the cow. Ben Fulks installed a solar powered electric fence around the entire 52 acres to keep the cows out. Unfortunately, it did not take long for the herders to learn how to short out the fence and cross over. So we are now putting up a barbed wire fence. While this is costly, the farm is our main source of income for the Bible college.

Without a fence we cannot grow crops just to feed local cattle. Without the farm, we have to rely totally on American support and we are trying to eliminate that all together!

### Drip Irrigation

I will be traveling to Ghana and Togo in late May. I will be teaching in the Graduate School, and visiting East Coast Bible Institute and Togo Bible College. While in Ghana I hope to install a prototype drip irrigation system for the farm.

### VBC continues to reach out

The Volta Bible College not only trains preachers but is a source of education and encouragement for all Christians in their area. In April they conducted a “Gospel Campaign” at the campus and surrounding areas. We look forward to hearing the report. In June, the Bible College will host a Preacher’s Seminar for all preachers in the Volta Region. There will be a large number of preachers who will benefit from such a seminar.

### Togo Bible College making a difference

The Togo Bible College served as host to the new “Togo Bible Camp”. It was well attended by adults and youth alike. While the church of Christ is very small in Togo, already the Bible College is having a major impact. In the short time of the school’s existence they have established 14 new congregations, baptized 471 people into Christ and graduated 9 newly trained



preachers.

### Another New School in Togo



God is really working in Togo and He is blessing our efforts. We have plans to start another school of preaching in Atakpame' located in the central part of the country. The land would cost about \$6,000 to purchase for farming and a building site. However, a new brother in Christ has just donated 25 acres for a farm and building site for the school. Money has already been donated to cover cost of registering the land. We now need funds to clear the land and plant seed. Our plan is to start reaping the benefits of the farm before enrolling students. This will allow us to have a school totally supported by the farm project with no need for American money to operate.

As you can see in the picture, brethren are anxious to get started and have already begun clearing the land by hand. Please keep this incredible opportunity in your prayers. God is doing His part in providing the opportunity and the land. Now it is up to us to step out in faith to move forward.

### **Hamrick travels**

Please pray for my safe and productive travels. I will be going to Memphis, TN, Neosho, MO, Ghana, Togo, and Costa Rico in the next few weeks. God has been so good to bless us with the finances needed to do this work and He is working through each of you to do that. May God continue to bless you so you can be a blessing to others. Remember, together we are making a difference!

### **Needs this quarter:**

\$500/month for student support in Costa Rico

Funding for a barbed wire fence around farm in Ghana

Funding for a prototype drip irrigation system

Funding to clear land and plant seed in Togo.

\$2,500 for my travel fund

Please make checks payable to World Bible Institute or Church of Christ and send them to:

WBI

Hamrick mission fund

400 Lake Dow Road

McDonough, GA 30252