

Integrityninistries

Thurston Surmer Report

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A 40 year study of a Dicipleship program and it's results.

Hi, my name is Miguel Fuentes, but most people call me by my nick name, Lito.

I'm very thankful for Jim and his late wife Lina because without their ministry in my life, I would probably not be doing what I am now and what I have done for the last 40 years.

I want to share with you what the Lord has done in my life and how my ministry has been shaped by Jim.

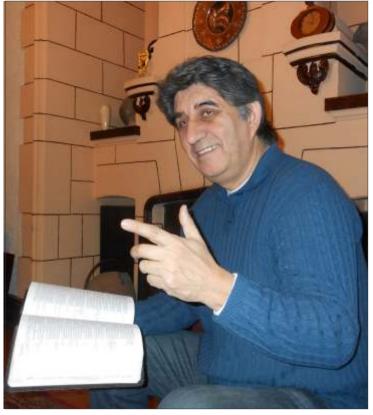
On January 26, 1973, I was 18 years old and the country was living under Marxism. Things in Chile were difficult. I was invited by one of my friends to go to the beach and attend a camp that Jim was having for young people. We were sitting around in a circle singing some camp songs and then some began to share their testimony of what Christ meant to them. After a few of the testimonies, Lina who was leading the meeting at that time asked, "Lito, why don't you give your testimony?" She may have thought I was a Christian. I said, "I don't have a testimony, the only reason I'm here is to have a vacation and enjoy the time at the beach.

Later that night I had a desire in my heart to know more. Before going to bed, some of my friends, who were Christians, gathered around and prayed with me.



Student camp in 1973

After their prayer I asked forgiveness of my sins and invited Christ into my life. Two days later, when we went down to the beach, I saw a church group and people being baptized. I asked the pastor doing the baptism, "May I join the group and be baptized? He replied, "Have you received Christ into your life?" I said, "yes" and he replied, "then there is no



Miguel (Lito) Fuentes

reason why you can't be baptized." And so I was baptized just two days after receiving Christ into my life.

When I returned to Santiago, I began to attend Jim's meetings and received follow-up & discipleship. Jim and some of the other staff



Jim's evangelistic meeting in1973

spent time with me and helped me grow in the faith. A short time later, Jim encouraged me to participate in a local church and soon after I became a member.

After studying in the university, I started to work at a secular job. From day one, I always had an interest to study more about the Bible.

Institute, and so I joined them, not to become a a pastor, but just to learn more about the Bible. The Bible Institute met at night and so it made it church. very easy for me to attend.

Jim had a church youth group in his home and he invited me to it. When I entered the room my eyes saw a beautiful young women. It was almost love at first sight. We were later married and have four children.

In 1983, the church I attended began to look for a new pastor. I was just a member and the people in the church thought I would be a good fit, so they called me as pastor. I pastored the church from 1983 until 1991. During that time I was able to complete postgraduate theological studies.

In 1991, I felt that the work in my congregation was finished. The church was strong, growing, and vibrant. My wife and I began to pray about starting a new work. This was very difficult for the church as the people loved us and they were very sad to see us go.

Once again, using the things I had learned from Jim, we started a new church in the heart of the concrete jungle, Santiago. Once it was organized and functioning, I turned it over to a friend who is still the pastor there today. He was also one of Jim's disciples.

In those years I was more motivated to sending people out to the mission field rather than myself going to the mission field. Then I was asked to help develop a missions program for a denomination. This was a pioneer work of establishing a philosophy and strategy plus projects. I was then appointed the Head of Missions and asked to implement the program. I began to have speaking speaking and teaching engagements in Brazil In one of those trips I was invited to stay. So in 1994, my family and I moved there. We began a new work in the southern part of Brazil where only 5% of the population were Christian.

I started to use the same evangelistic techniques I learned from Jim. We started to evangelize using personal evangelism and working through friends and friends of the friends. After a short time, we had enough people to start a church and it continues today. My son and his wife are pastoring this 250 member church.

We have returned to Chile and have been here just over a month. We are now looking around for a place to begin a new church. I'm very thankful to Jim for allowing me to stay in his home while I look around for a place to rent.

The area on my heart has 195,410 residents and only 4% are Christians.

I had some friends who were studying at a Bible We plan to start with small home groups just like my early days with Jim. Once we have two or three small groups going, we will formally then start the

> I'm very thankful to Jim for allowing me to start one of the home Bible studies in his living room. I'm looking for people who are new and not attending other churches. We have around 12 people who participate and five are committed to the project.

Last week Jim was about to park his car in the garage when an older couple stopped and asked, "Are you having church meetings here?" And he said "Yes, why don't you join us?" They had heard Christian songs coming from the house.



Jim's livingroom the first meeting in of a new church

I'm thankful for what Jim taught me about evangelism, discipleship, and building groups as it's still very relevant. Thank you for allowing Jim to work in Chile

A letter came in from a person who read one of our articles about the family on our web site.

"Your web site has been refreshing to my soul and my 8 children. The things have been difficult, but not impossible. I hope my dear husband will spend a day with us. Thanks."

Prayer Requests

- 1. For the continual outreach with our web sites.
- Solving problems we have with our servers.
- 3. For our video Bible school that we may be able to finishing the recordings.
- 4. For added finances for our personal support.
- 5. For our mission staff.

All of this is possible because of your faithful support. Because of your partnership, thousands of lives are being transformed by the Gospel. From the bottom of my heart, THANK YOU!

As partners and friends, thanks for your prayers, your concern, your willingness to back us in this international ministry. Your missions investment is working.