

COSTA RICA WORKSHOP REPORT

by Rob Armstrong

Although Costa Rica is known for its beautiful coastal areas and ecotourism, most of the country consists of farms, coffee and rubber plantations, and dense rain forests. The vast majority of Costa Ricans live away from the tourist hotspots in one of Costa Rica's two major cities (San Jose and Liberia). These cities are densely populated and have high unemployment and crime rates. Outside the big cities are small villages and farms. In the most remote jungle areas there are hundreds of tribal settlements, most of which can only be reached on foot via narrow and often hazardous mountain trails.

In April of this year, Carlos Tellez, Lucas Mancas and I conducted a DM2 Romans workshop in the mountain village of Tuis. This village, located about 60 miles east of the capital city of San Jose, has a population of approximately 3,000 and is surrounded by coffee plantations, farms and jungle. The workshop was attended by 22 people, most of whom work for a local missionary organization and attend a local church.

As we began the workshop it became apparent that most of the attendees had never heard a clear presentation of the gospel of grace. Although many had attended "evangelical" Christian churches at some point in their lives, and all are regularly involved in training missionaries in foreign language study, yet, almost without exception, they lacked assurance of salvation. Each participant stated (on their initial written surveys) that in order to receive forgiveness of sins and eternal life a person would have to be baptized, keep the ten commandments, surrender their all, live a life of obedience, etc. But God had evidently prepared their hearts in advance. By the end of the workshop, one person after another announced they now

believed in Christ and His finished work on their behalf for their salvation. One man, an assistant pastor, said it was like a burden had been lifted off his shoulders and for the first time in his life he had assurance of salvation based on faith alone in Christ alone.



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*Students who attended
the workshop*

More on Reverse

PRAYER REQUESTS:

General DM2 Prayer Requests:

- First of all, thank you for your prayers for the Summer Youth workshops. God answered mightily; we saw a lot of lives transformed! Pray God would raise up many youth to be the next generation of disciple-makers.
- Continue to pray with us for a solid translator for French.

Pray for the following workshops:

- July 9-14 Los Negros, Bolivia – 1 Timothy and Titus
- August 1-5 Dallas, Texas – Women in the Word workshop



- August 23-26 Cordelle, Georgia – Colossians
- All the locally-led DM2 workshops being held continually throughout countries like Bolivia, Mexico, Paraguay, Zambia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Myanmar and the former Soviet Union.

Our first trip to Costa Rica was an impactful one. The incredible beauty of the flowers and animals in the country reflect the amazing creation God made for our enjoyment and His glory.

During our eight day stay, we taught through Romans 1-5 and answered many questions. This was the first time most of the attendees had heard a clear gospel and they believed in the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ as the sufficient price for their salvation. They were so hungry for the truth. We hope to return in January to continue teaching them from the life-transforming book of Romans.

While we were there, we were also able to minister to many people on a personal level. Souls were hurting from wounds received in their past and we were able to counsel them. Please pray along with us that what the participants learned during this first workshop in Costa Rica will be taught to others during the time they await our next visit.

- by Carlos Tellez

The Costa Rica trip was my first mission trip with DM2. It was a fruitful and rewarding trip. On the first day of the workshop we realized that most of those attending did not fully understand the free gift of salvation and eternal security, but by the end they responded with statements like, "A weight has been lifted from my shoulders," and, "It is so freeing not to have to worry about my salvation."

The people were friendly and hospitable. We were invited by several to visit them in their homes. This gave us great opportunities to get to know them more personally and also to clear up any questions they might have on what we had been teaching.

- by Lucas Mancas

HERE ARE SOME RESPONSES WE RECEIVED AT THE END OF THE WORKSHOP:

Question: What was the most impactful part of this DM2 workshop for you?

Answer: The order of the topics. Because of the way the material is laid out and taught, I received clarity, based on the Word of God, concerning the doubts I had.

Question: What changes has the teaching caused in your life?

Answer: Every evening after the workshop I analyzed many aspects of my life and I started to forgive, starting with myself and then the person who has hurt me most.... and I found peace. The teaching of the Word gave me security of my salvation. I learned what the Law really is and its function.

Question: According to the biblical vision of making disciple-makers, how do you think you can use the curriculum that has been presented and provided by DM2 for the glory of God?

Answer: This is a difficult task because we live surrounded by religious people, but we need to make the truth known to everyone possible.

Attendees at the workshop in progress

