

Brief Report

From Dewayne, Rita, and Antonio Shappley

March 13, 2021

The **two elders** and **three deacons** of the **Bayamon, Puerto Rico church** take special spiritual care of the flock during the **Coronavirus Plague**.

The five men **preach, teach, and lead singing**.

They are assisted by other men of the congregation who also preach, teach, lead singing, and direct services. None receives financial support from the church. There is no staff in addition to them.

The first nine photographs of this report are **screen shots** of **live transmissions** broadcast on the Facebook account of the Bayamon church.

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching...” 1 Timothy 5:17-18

“For those who have ministered the office of deacon well purchase for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith, which is in Christ Jesus.” 1 Timothy 3:13

The purpose of this report is to pay **“double honor”** to the **elders** of the Bayamon, Puerto Rico church and highlight the **“good standing”** and **“great boldness”** of the **deacons** of the congregation, setting them forth as an example to emulate.



Predicador: Luis Sardina Título: Una sociedad en decadencia

Luis Sardina Vega, elder, preaches Feb. 28, 2021 on the subject **“A Society in Decadence.”**



Alfonso Estrella Sánchez, elder, preaches, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, on the subject “God’s Discipline and Self-Discipline.”

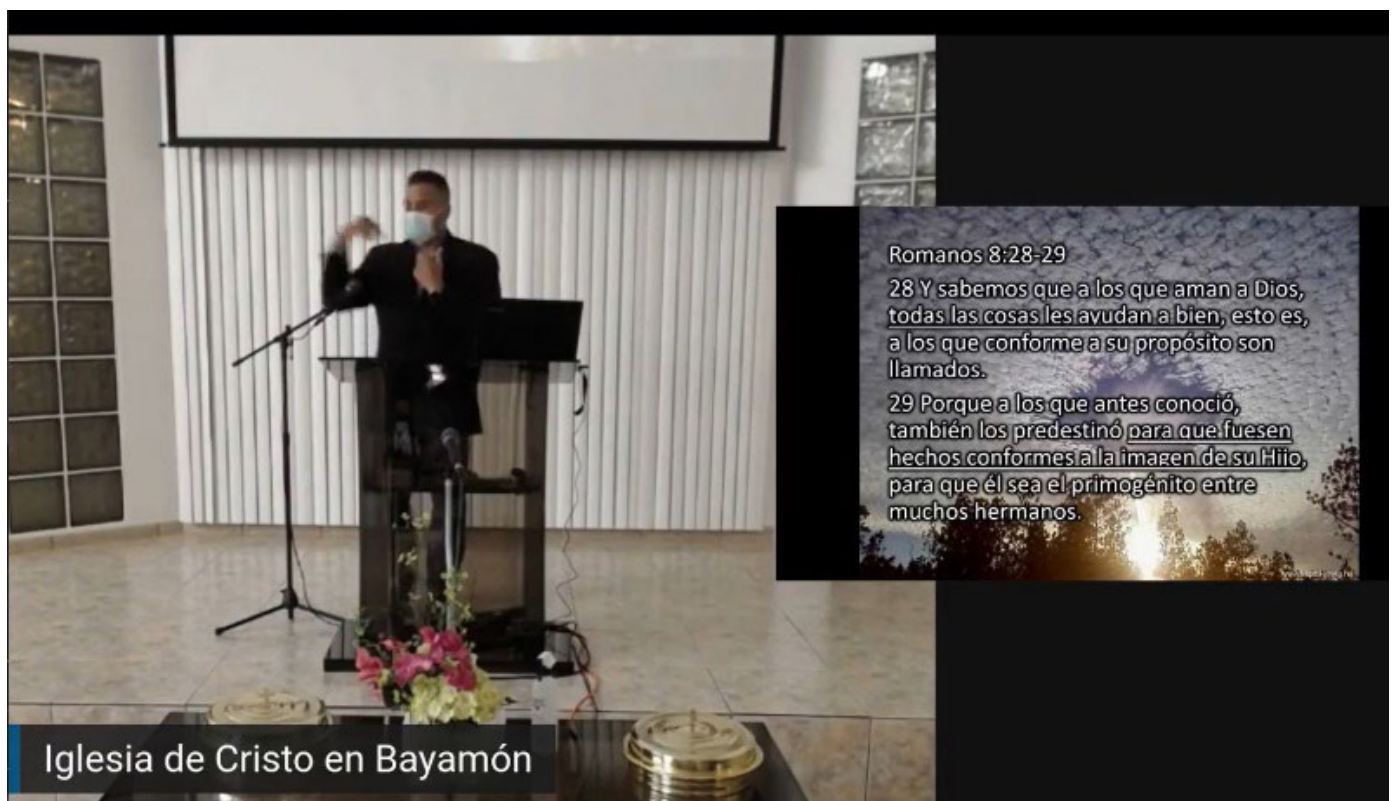


Jorge Ginés López, deacon, preaches March 7, 2021 on the subject “*Begotten Unto a Living Hope.*” He develops several slides for each sermon. The slides are projected on a large screen above the curtains in front of the baptistry.



Iglesia de Cristo en Bayamón

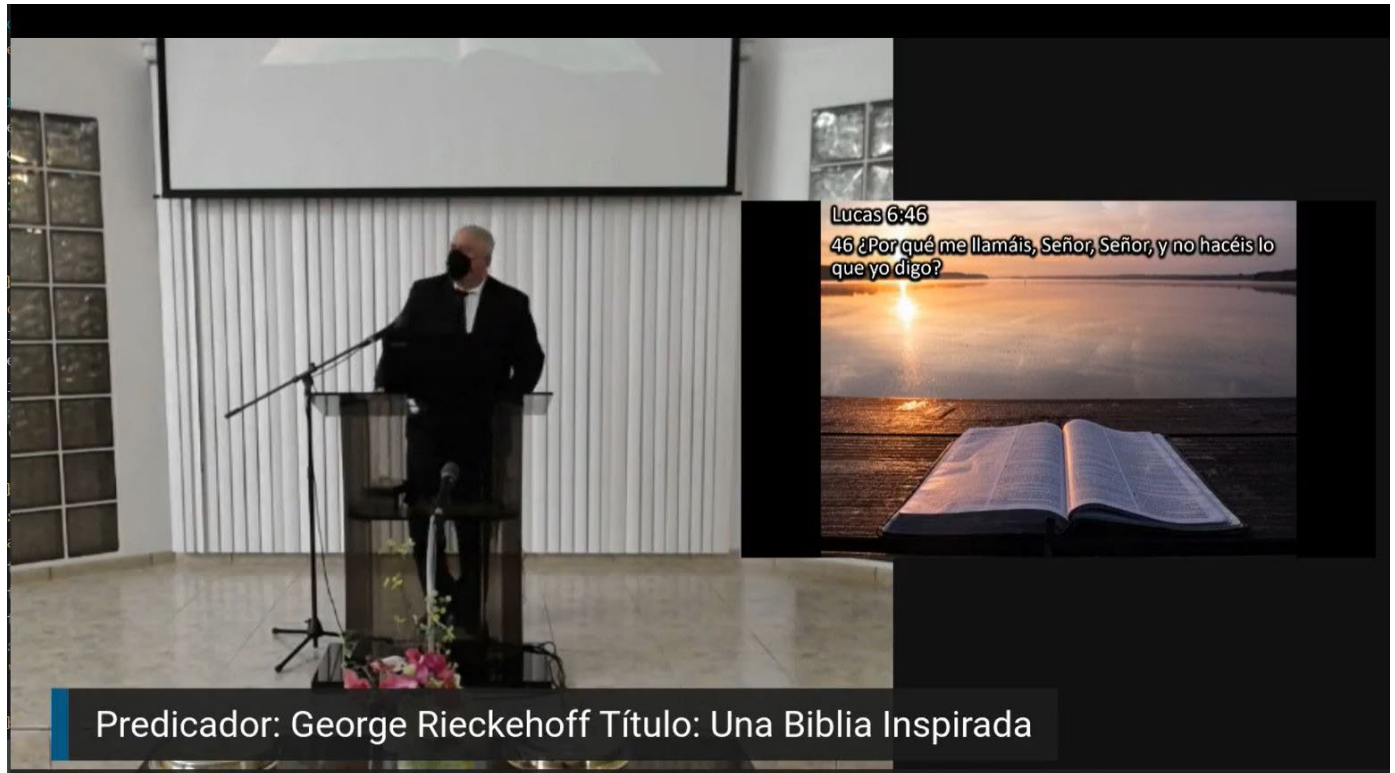
Rafael Torres Burgos, deacon, preaches January 24, 2021, on the subject “*Purposes, Resolutions, and Goals.*” The lower part of the large screen above the curtains can be seen in this photograph.



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José Juan Álamo Báez, deacon, preaches Feb. 7, 2021 on the subject “*A Message that Does Not Change.*” José Juan maintains the Facebook page of the Bayamon church.

We also honor men of the Bayamon, Puerto Rico who preach, teach, and lead singing but for one or another circumstance do not yet fully qualify to be elders or deacons.



George Rieckehoff preaches Feb. 14, 2021 on the subject ***“An Inspired Bible.”*** In addition to long-time service to the church in Bayamon, George has preached many, many sermons for the church in Ceiba, Puerto Rico.



Raúl Rosario preaches Jan. 31, 2021 on the subject ***“Vein Deceits,”*** with emphasis on the Internet, Social Media, and the spiritual armor of God.



Wilfredo Pérez preaches Feb. 21, 2021, in Bayamon, on the subject ***"Are You Really Wise?"*** A little more than three years ago, Wilfredo began preaching some for a small congregation in Manatí, Puerto Rico, at the encouragement and with the guidance of his father-in-law, Luis Sardina, elder. Both Luis and his wife, Myrna, and Wilfredo and his wife, Myrna Liz, with their two sons, have been helping that congregation for several years.



Noel Estrella Reyes, son of elder Alfonso Estrella Sánchez, directs the Lord's Supper and the Contribution. He is an excellent song leader.



Left. **Jorge Ginés, deacon**, and **Raúl Rosario** in the WIAC studios for the weekly, Saturday, 9 a. m., 30-minute program. In progress since the first Saturday of July 2020. Various preaching brethren both from Bayamon and other congregations present messages. Heard throughout the island, this program is a special blessing during this critical Time of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The preaching brethren of Bayamon frequently take turns speaking in other congregations, and some from sister congregations are invited to preach in Bayamon.

This means the members of the congregations do not have to listen to the same preacher every Sunday! Cutting way back on being exposed to repetitious

content and the same pulpit style every Sunday, even for years and years. It enables preachers to devote more time to sermon preparation and is an incentive for them to do their best.

In Puerto Rico, when a brother preaches in a sister congregation, he does not expect to be paid for it. Of course, 1 Timothy 5:17-18 specifically authorizes **material support** for **elders “who labor in preaching and teaching”** should they need it. If the circumstances of a congregation are of such a nature that a supported elder-shepherd is needed, or more than one, because of the number of sheep, extensive benevolent and/or evangelistic outreaches, etc., clear authorization is legislated in the text cited.



Iglesia de Cristo en Bayamón

Private group · 251 members



+ Invite

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Above. The heading of the **Facebook page** of the Bayamon, Puerto Rico church.

Below. **José Juan Álamo, deacon**, is the administrator of the page. Using different graphics, he announces the roster of ministries for each Sunday, the following being for March 7, 2021.



Wednesday night virtual studies

In their ongoing efforts to take care of their spiritual flock during this Time of the Coronavirus, the leadership of the Bayamon church provides **live, virtual Bible studies**, forty-five minutes long, each Wednesday night. Four men take part in the studies.

It was my great privilege and honor to appoint, together with the congregation, elders and deacons for the Bayamon church, Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015.

<http://www.editoriallapaz.org/report-2015-12-26-elders-deacons-appointed.html>

Knowing all of them well and for decades, I estimate that the Bayamon preaching brethren presented in this report would have, summing up the years each has been a faithful Christian, a total of about 300 years in the church.

While some might consider me naturally biased, having worked with these eight Bayamon preaching and teaching brethren for so long, my opinion is, understanding Spanish as I do, that the content, quality, variety, depth, timeliness, and presentation of their sermons and classes is equal to, and, in some cases, superior to, most of what I have heard in English. Well, so I may be a little prejudiced!

By the way, since some congregations in Puerto Rico with elders and deacons, or a capable leadership according to the guidelines of 1 Corinthians 16:15-16, have elected not to bring in a full-time, paid preacher to take care of the sheep, their contributions have been used to build their own meeting places and support local evangelistic and benevolent works, plus extensive works of that same kind, particularly in the Dominican Republic and El Salvador; to a lesser degree in Venezuela, Haiti and India. Having much knowledge of works done and funds invested over a period of 50 years, I would state the total at several million dollars. An imprecise figure to be sure, but to give an idea.

Following is a relevant article I wrote and published earlier this week.

First in Spanish, then, translated to English.



Highly merited praise for **elders** (synonymous with shepherds or bishops) and **deacons** who **personally take care** of their **spiritual sheep** during the **Coronavirus Plague!**

Profound concern for those who do not!

Do the sheep of your congregation-sheepfold hear the **unique, mature, comforting, compassionate, and firm voice** of their elders-shepherds? Do they really know and follow them? The **dangers** of elders-shepherds **not caring personally** for the sheep, rather, mostly charging third parties with the task.

What percentage of the membership has your congregation lost as a result of the **Coronavirus Plague!**

This article as published in **English** on www.editoriallapaz.org. Six graphics

<http://www.editoriallapaz.org/elders-shepherds-deacons-COVID19-lost-sheep.html>

This article was written originally in **Spanish** and published on www.editoriallapaz.org.

<http://www.editoriallapaz.org/pastores-ancianos-diaconos-rol-coronavirus.html>

This article is included as an attachment.

The focus has been on the Bayamon, Puerto Rico church leadership.

Other congregations on the island have been busy taking care of their sheep.

Three examples

Below. Four men of the **Arecibo, Puerto Rico Church of Christ** present live, virtual Bible classes each Wednesday. Their services on Sundays are also transmitted live on Facebook.

**Juan F. Vargas Segarra**
20m · ...


LIVE  18




René O. Rosado



Edwin Quinones



Holvín L. Montalvo Cruz



Alvaro Jirau

Iglesia de Cristo en Arecibo is live now.
24m · 



Estudio Bíblico 12.16.20 - Estudia con nosotros la Palabra de Dios en este Miércoles. Hoy continuaremos el estudio del libro de "Hechos" en el capítulo 4, Dios les bendiga.

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The **Barrio Cubuy, Canóvanas, Puerto Rico Church of Christ leadership** is quite active in the presentation of live, virtual services and Bible studies.

The **elders** and **deacons** of the **Gurabo, Puerto Rico Church of Christ**, aided by other capable men of the congregation, are striving to keep the flock together and well-fed during this time of crisis.

Report prepared by Dewayne Shappley