

Brief Report

From Dewayne, Rita and Antonio Shappley

Jan. 06, 2020

We take this opportunity to wish for each and everyone of you, your loved ones and your congregations, a New Year 2020 rich in blessings from Above, both material and spiritual.

The three large boxes of tracts, booklets, books and CD's of hymns sent to Nicaragua Nov. 23, 2019 were delivered without incident Saturday, Dec. 14. They were for at least four congregations.

A few days ago, another long-time evangelist in Nicaragua, Bro. Jorge Luis Norory, requested, on behalf of many other evangelists and church leaders, material for 65 congregations in Nicaragua. He is to send us, this week, local data to be printed on a part of the tracts for congregations requesting that service. During our time in Puerto Rico, we sent Bro. Jorge, now 60 years of age, much material.

In **December, 2019**, brethren from all over the country gathered at a Convention Center in Managua, the capital, to **celebrate the establishment of the church of Christ in their nation fifty years ago**. That was in 1969, three years after we went to Puerto Rico.

As the church grew in Nicaragua and brethren became aware of the tracts that we began producing in 1968, they requested quantities. Over the next 35 years, large amounts, plus booklets, books and cassettes were sent there, from Puerto Rico, for evangelization and edification. I just talked to Bro. Jorge, and he tells me that **today** there are **180 congregations in the country**, with approximately **20,000 members**. The largest congregation is Villa Alemania, in Managua, with 550 to 600 members, and four elders.

I was invited to be a part of the Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, for the organizers wanted to present me a token of their gratitude for our contribution to the growth of the church through the materials supplied. For reasons I will not state here, I decided not to make the trip.

Bro. Fanor Paz, Nicaraguan, of the church where we attend, did go. Yesterday, Sunday, he gave us the plaque I was to receive at the Celebration. We are greatly honored, while, at the same time, giving all the glory to the Lord. Receiving the plaque, with rejoicing, in the name of Rita, Antonio and all congregations and members who made possible the production and shipment of the materials.

In the first of the attached photographs, Rita and I are standing in the West Broward church auditorium where we received the plaque. The second is a closeup of the plaque.

Through your generosity, we are again sending tracts and other materials to brethren in Nicaragua. A country of 7,000,000, where, as Bro. Jorge stated, people are still generally receptive to the pure gospel.

With brotherly love in Christ, and much gratitude,

Dewayne Shappley

