



EXPANDING THE HARVEST THROUGH TEARS

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Few of us like to cry, yet life presents many reasons to do so, including life on the mission field. I served for nine years in Nicaragua, eight of them with my wife, Jacqueline (Guzmán), also a graduate of SBRG. We were blessed to see God's hand in so many ways, but eventually the time to say goodbye came—the time to cry.

Believe me, leaving our mission field was not easy for us. We had practically everything that anyone could desire: our own home, vehicles, a beautiful church, a school, a radio ministry, and the privilege of serving in and directing a Christian organization.

However, God used circumstances to show us that it was time to leave, to give up everything, and to start again. It all sounded logical, but where was He leading? Where were we going to live? What were we going to do? Would churches support us in a new country? What about the kids? There were many other questions on the list.

While all these things swirled around in my mind—as I silently wept because I wanted to continue *sowing the seed*—in the midst of that, I was learning new lessons. I realized that God was acting in ways that only He can, to show us once again that He was in control and that our part was just to trust Him.

So it was that after two months, we packed our bags and left for the

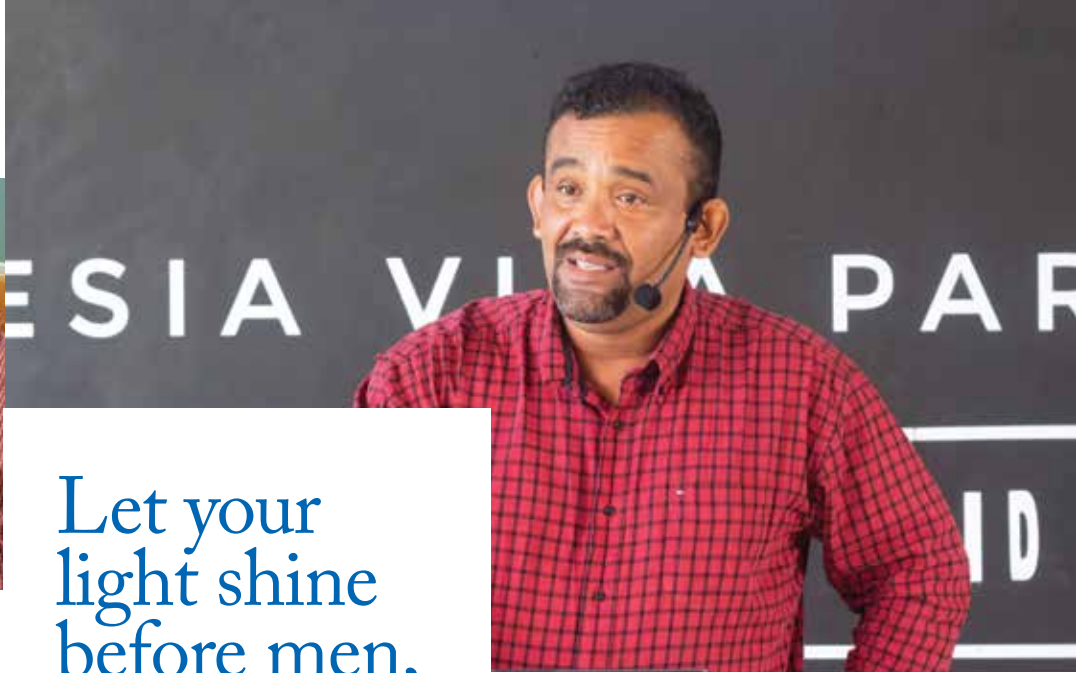
Dominican Republic, Jacqueline's home country. Three things were key: first, could I get residency? Second, could we live on our current support? Praise God that in three months the residency was granted to me. And, although two churches did abandon us, a new one took us on and

He that goeth forth
and weepeth, bearing
precious seed, shall
doubtless come again
with rejoicing, bringing
his sheaves with him.

PSALM 126:6, KJV



*Jaime's
passion:
training
others in
the Word.*



Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

MATTHEW 5:16



compensated for the loss of the other two.

The third question remained: where would we serve? At this point, the crying stopped and a new ministry began. The Lord showed us that we could serve, not only in the Dominican Republic, but also in other places. The challenge was to transform the ministry into one that includes several countries.

While we waited for my residency, we traveled to El Salvador to help organize a new local church with another SBRG alumnus, Oswaldo Asturias, and analyze how our organization, 516 Now (based on Matthew 5:16), could aid this congregation. It wasn't long before I was traveling to Colombia with the same purpose. As I write this article, I am making plans to go to Belize.

God had His plans! It has been beautiful to see what is happening in El Salvador and in the *Vida para Crecer* (Life to Grow) church. God has also blessed us in allowing us to support a missionary in Colombia and a seminary in the city of Barranquilla. Additionally, He has shown us what He would have us to do here in the Dominican Republic.

Five months after we started working here, God guided us to plant a new

church in an area with many people but few churches. He has led us to work with another missionary couple on the island. At the same time, we serve in a local church with our gifts and talents, and support the planting of another church in the city of Santo Domingo.

God has been opening doors for us, and we have been able to coordinate missionary

trips to this country, pastors conferences, youth camps, and social work. Also, we are sharing the Gospel with young people in baseball academies who have been or are seeking to be signed with MLB (Major League Baseball).

We still go out with tears, but today we thank God because the sheaves have arrived. We have a place to live, churches that support us, and the blessing of serving in five countries—Nicaragua, El Salvador, Colombia, Belize, and the Dominican Republic. All of this is a challenge but also an honor. God is good and merciful as we walk, weeping and rejoicing, and see His hand in our midst.

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

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Left: A happy family: Jacqueline, Jaime, and children. Right: Feeding the flock at Vida para Crecer.