

DESTINO CRISTIANO



A SPIRIT-FILLED, BILINGUAL CHURCH IN LA PAZ, MEXICO

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Ponderings of Pastor Jamee Pineda

Sometimes I wonder how other church planters feel about their journey. Are they as pleased as we are with the place God sent them to? Has their dependence on God increased day by day, as it has for us? And are other church planters as excited as we are to see what God is going to do next? I can only assume that their answers are yes, yes and yes, because God is good and He is faithful. And anyone planting a church has also been faithful to do what God has asked. Lamentations 3:23 says that His mercies are new every morning, which means that every day is another chance to get it right. And by 'right,' what I mean is, to be in the perfect will of God. For us, that's the goal. If we're in His perfect will, then all is well.

It's 2017 now, which seems a little premature to me. For some reason, I don't feel that 2016 was given its fair share of time. Or, perhaps time goes faster year after year – and I am getting up in years so time is speeding along. But ultimately, all that doesn't matter because God is the maker and keeper of time, and He has given each of us our own share of it. So, as I ask myself questions about how other church planters feel, and work toward getting it right, and ponder the issues of time, I feel confident about this one thing. God is with us. That's all a church planter really needs.

The Walls are Coming Down

Well, it has happened again. The church is growing and we find ourselves needing to tear down another wall – the one that separates the sanctuary from the fellowship room. But we're not complaining! We're celebrating because God continues to build His church here in La Paz. The work will start in mid-January with Gerardo, Don and Mike working as a team to tear down the walls, create pillars (so the roof doesn't cave in) and relocate the stage and the sound booth. We'll be taking pictures to be featured in next quarter's newsletter!

Breaking Bread at Thanksgiving Brunch

There were three simple rules at Destino Cristiano's 2016 Thanksgiving Brunch. Rule 1: Eat more than you should. Rule 2: Eat more after that. Rule 3: Finish it off with every kind of dessert available. And the 70-plus members of Destino followed the rules perfectly, enjoying the food and the fellowship! And what a great feast it was, with Bernie's Black Forest ham topped with pineapple glaze and scalloped potatoes with bacon bits, plus veggies. To top off the somewhat traditional Thanksgiving meal, many Destino members made dessert so that there were 20-plus different sweets to taste.

The meal was preceded by Pastor Jerry's message "Altars of Thanksgiving." And on that day, an altar of friendship was built among people of various cultures!



New Translator Joins the Destino Team



Alejandra Bracamontes became a Christian at 15, in Chihuahua, México, where she's originally from. Alejandra, now 28, moved to La Paz in June 2016 and works from home as a medical interpreter for companies in the U.S. She loves cultural diversity, and as a translator/interpreter says she will be serving the Lord through languages and building social bridges leading to God's love. Alejandra also desires to serve by helping people to live healthy lifestyles. Her favorite verse and is from Mark 9:23: "Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things *are* possible to him who believes.'"

The Destino School of English Begins

On December 10th, eight students received certificates when they graduated from the basic course at The Destino School of English. Teacher, Cindy Crane took beginning students through 2 months of learning using the Cambridge University method. Graduates had attended a weekly Saturday class where they enjoyed an interactive atmosphere and worked with one another on weekly assignments. The students say they are eager to continue. The dates for the next course will be announced soon.



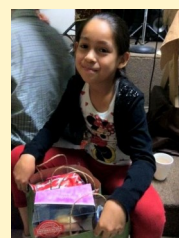
Santa and Presents at Nueva Creacion Orphanage

For the third year in a row, the Destino Cristiano team blessed the children of Nueva Creacion, a Christian-based orphanage on the outskirts of La Paz. Thanks to donations of toys, clothing and money, every child received lots of gifts to open. Santa’s elves are busy preparing for Christmas at Nueva Creacion.



Here’s to “A Hallelujah Christmas”

There was standing room only at Destino Cristiano’s “A Hallelujah Christmas” program and candlelight service. The morning started off with the kids singing Cascabel (Jingle Bells), followed by a skit, music, a sermon and the candlelight ceremony. Christmas continued with the after-service potluck of delicious desserts and finger foods, and of course, a party for the kids in which Santa became the featured guests. Yes, it was fun, and yes, it was slightly chaotic, but isn’t that what happens when families gather for the birthday of Jesus Christ.





Mission Field Intern Arrives

In late December Julia Hawley arrived in La Paz to work as a Destino Mission Field Intern. During her three-month stay, Julia will help with the worship team and provide training and support for the youth group leaders of Luces de la Ciudad. Julia will also provide administrative assistance and work with the media. Welcome to La Paz Julia!!!

BIBLE COLLEGE AT DESTINO



October through December, Pastor Jamee Pineda offered the first ever bilingual Bible College course at Destino Cristiano titled "Bible Doctrines." Congratulations to the 7 students who earned their first college credits. Courses will continue through 2017.

YOUTH BIBLE STUDY

Meets @ Destino @ 5:00 pm every Saturday except for the first Saturday of the month when City Lights has their monthly Service



ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY

Meets @ Destino @ 10am every Wednesday



SPANISH BIBLE STUDY

To be announced

WE ARE ON THE WEB:
www.destinocristiano.com



Weekly sermons can be heard on our website @ <http://destinocristiano.com/index.php/sermon/the-refiners-fire/>

PRAYER REQUESTS & SUPPORT

Thank you all for your continued prayers

Answered Prayers:

Worship Team members and Children's Church Workers have arrived!

HOW TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH
For tax deductible donations, please send donations through Joy Christian Fellowship (541-779-7029).
You can also use PayPal, or contact us at

EMAIL: churchinlapaz@gmail.com