

"Go ye into all the world"...Mark 16:15



**Please forward this email to all of your friends.**

**Hello Everyone,**

I am sorry about being so long in getting out this latest update concerning the congresso (campmeeting) on the Amazon River. People ask me if I am excited about going on another trip to Peru and my answer is "no" because there are always many, many problems that I have to deal with. On this trip there were several problems that threatened to shut it down. All were serious, but God helped me work all of the out.

These trips are not just about numbers. Congressos are not meant to be evangelization trips, but a time of bringing people together for a celebration of their faith in Jesus Christ and for learning and instruction. Still, we had 110 children and 11 adults saved.

All that said, this trip was about looking to the future of the congressos on the river. It was about learning how to perfect the congresso so that we can take it into any area where God directs and do so successfully. The attendance was down, but I now know why. We had several sessions where my staff, along with John Mortimer, where we sat and discussed the customs and teachings of the area. We found significant areas that needed to be adjusted to Biblical teaching and more efficient logistical operations. The taking of the sacrament was one area. It was poorly understood there and people were actually afraid to take it. Our praise and worship was terrible the first few services. We got that straightened up. There were areas of ministry where my leaders needed understanding. Much was accomplished.

On Friday afternoon I looked at the congresso so far and realized that unless major changes were instituted it would be a failure. One last time I had a conference with my leadership. I informed them that there had to be changes. God had sent a young man named Giancarlos on the trip. I have known him for many years now. I did not know he had a gift.... a gift of leading praise and worship... In Spanish they call it adoración. I love that translation. Jose knew it, but in his attempt to hold his staff to the highest levels of integrity he did not let Giancarlos lead in adoración. He had not been as fervent in church as Jose thought he should have been. There was no serious breach of Biblical living here but, again, Jose was trying to hold the standard. God had sent Giancarlos there for that purpose and Jose was not allowing that gift to operate in the congresso. Jose saw his mistake and invited him to lead praise and worship Friday night. The rest is history. God has permanently placed Giancarlos in SAC as the praise and worship minister. He will also be fulfilling other duties in SAC. If you remember he got saved in a crusade 11 years ago that I had in Pucallpa. Since that time God has groomed him for this day. On the last service after differences had been settled and we allowed God to direct us I watched as Giancarlos led the worship during the sacrament. He was crying so hard and the tears were flowing so heavily that he could hardly see the keyboard.

In conclusion, God taught us many things on this trip. We are ready to move forward now. We will be doing another congresso in the last week of October. It is going to be great. If you want to go, get your request in early. I can only take about 10 people with me. Probably half of those seats are already taken.

God bless,

Bro Joe

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