



First Timothy chapter 2 reminds us, ***that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.*** Godly leadership is important in every aspect of life and most important in the church. Why? The church is God's divine base upon which life is to be built. It is impossible to have a stable, moral society that has no biblical foundation. Godly churches are dependent upon biblical leadership and biblical leaders cannot exist apart from godly marriages. The validity of these statements has been proven over the ages. When they have been ignored, all have suffered. One would think that this truth would be engraved in our thinking as followers of Christ; however, history has demonstrated over and over it is not. Leadership in many local churches continues to be a revolving door as leaders come and go for a myriad of reasons. The church continues to fail to recognize the magnitude of this need and how to address it.

If the church is to effectively influence the world around it, it must have godly leadership couples to develop and nurture it. For this to be reality, we need men and women who are equipped to care for themselves by living balanced lives. We must have leaders who authentically model what it means to walk intimately with Christ as a lifestyle so that they can effectively confront the stresses and challenges of church leadership. For this to become reality there must be a cultural change within the church and among its leaders.

BP was designed with these specific needs in mind. Two of the elements that define BP are its commitment to working with pastoral and leadership couples with a vision to lead them in developing integrally as followers of Christ. The strategy that allows us to fulfill these goals most successfully is an extended retreat. We meet from Friday through Sunday at a facility which allows people to disconnect mentally, emotionally and physically from their daily responsibilities. The facility is a key element in our strategy and highly influences the outcomes. We have traveled all over El Salvador seeking facilities that were affordable, accessible and geared towards couples. We have failed to find any facility to meet these standards within the biblical community in El Salvador. After several years of moving locations, we were blessed to find a hotel that has served us well; however, the economic cost

is unsustainable and is far beyond what would be needed to see BP successfully adapted by the churches we serve. Without an adequate facility, BP cannot be sustained.

Shortly after I began ministry in El Salvador, I visited the church association camp, which unfortunately was poorly maintained and underdeveloped. However, four years ago there was a generational change in leadership who have grown in their vision for the camp and its potential impact for ministry. As I observed these changes and revisited the camp, I was convinced this was the place to build a retreat center for BP. Over the last 3 years God has grown and matured this vision within the national leadership and its churches. Since its inception construction, planning and supervision of the project has been nationally led. The quality of the work and planning have been excellent and the giving of the national church to this project has been faithful from the very beginning. I have not observed this level of participation among national churches in over 30 years of ministry among Latins. Since the beginning of the project at the end of 2021, we have been blessed to see God provide funds for 4 of the 10 cabins, the installation of the sewage and water systems and electricity. In spite of the huge increases in construction cost since COVID, construction costs have been maintained at very economic levels. The quality of the cabins is beyond what I imagined being possible. They are nicer than the hotels we have stayed in and create a perfect environment for couples seeking a place for rest and renewal.

The impact of BP through God's Spirit has been beyond what I imagined possible. Since BP began, the President of Central American Mission has stated that the loss of pastoral leadership due to burnout and moral failure has fallen by 50%. We have had the joy of having over 60 pastoral couples who have participated in our retreats. One of the most exciting changes since 2022 is the number of pastors beginning BP groups with existing leaders and couples in their churches. The retreat center is absolutely key to this strategic new beginning in that churches need a retreat center that is available, accessible and affordable. The center fulfills all these requirements and more. Currently we are investing \$12,000 dollars a year in retreat costs. The retreat center will enable us to cut this cost by two-thirds and provide a permanent location where pastoral couples and leaders from over 150 churches can come for rest and renewal throughout the year.

A primary goal of BP has been that of creating a new culture that will flesh out our vision "building Christ-centered communities of lifelong learners." God is bringing this vision to reality and the retreat center will be the central point of this transformational process. Join with us in laying this foundation through prayer and giving.