



# GOOD NEWS

*from a far country.*

Volume 3 / Issue 1

January 2019



If you would like to support our ministry, please get in touch with us (our contact information is at the end of this newsletter)

Also, we are glad and blessed to have a faithful congregation that volunteered to be our overseeing congregation. You can get in touch with them, or send your checks/letters at:

Gonzales Church of Christ  
Attn. Go Ye Into All Missions  
1225 South Purpera Ave.  
Gonzales, LA 70737

+1 (225) 644-5824.

[gonzalescofc@eatel.net](mailto:gonzalescofc@eatel.net)

<http://gonzalescofc.com/>

## WE DID IT!

Last January 6th, we were blessed to have the first worship service of **Iglesia de Cristo en Las Villas** (<http://idclasvillas.org>). Sixteen souls were worshipping together in the morning, and twelve in the afternoon. It is a small group but we are thankful to count with them at the beginning of this work. Even when it is a small group, our house was full that day. We do not have a building yet, but we are thankful for being able to start in our living room. As Aquila and Priscila, and those in their house, we greet everyone (1 Corinthians 16:19). It has not been easy to start, but we did it, and are thankful for that.

It is interesting how time flies as we are getting close to the end of January, our first month as a congregation. The brethren are happy with the work, and they are willing to help in any way possible. Some of them already notified their previous congregations about their desire to stay with us.

We already had a home devotional, and the brethren signed up to host those in the next coming months. We also had our first event, a kind of baby shower, the sisters of the congregation gave some money and we used it to buy essential items to help one sister that is soon to give birth. One of the couples that usually visit us had their firstborn girl a couple of weeks ago. The congregation is already growing!

We will have a fellowship meal on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. I cannot get tired of telling you how busy we are, and even when our bodies might be exhausted by Sunday night, we are thankful for being able to do all of these for the Lord.

The congregation's bulletin is titled "Columna y Baluarte de la Verdad" ("pillar and ground of the truth", 1 Timothy 3:15). Why? It is simple, we want to focus on being Christians only, to be

family, to be united, to be the example for the community. Starting in our homes, teaching our children, helping our brethren, visiting them not only when they are sick or in need, but to strengthen each one of us in every possible way. To be that pillar and ground of truth. There are many out there, including some in the brotherhood, who profess to be Christians but the only thing they do is to read and to memorize the Bible, but do not live according to it, they just quote the Bible but do not practice what they say.

Our goal is to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), just as we are taught in the Bible. We are working hard on helping our brethren realize that when we become Christians that is just the beginning of our lives as servants of God. To rejoice in what we do, even when it is hard sometimes. To rejoice in knowing that even when life seems not to be fair, there is a great reward at the end of the road. To look forward to that moment when our Lord sees us and tells us “you did it”.

We just started the congregation, one of our goals was accomplished. But it does not end there, there is a lot more to do. We want to grow, not only in number, but in knowledge. We want to have a place where we can receive more visitors and brethren, and not be worried because it is someone else’s dwelling place. We want to reach the masses, not only by door-knocking but through media (and we already started it by uploading videos in our YouTube channel, as well as other content in social accounts). We want to show to the world that when we say that Christ is alive, it is not a cliché, or a simple desire, but a sincere and true statement. We want to preach and teach the Word to the world in every possible way. We want to do it by telling them what the Bible states and not by our own opinions or theirs. We want to help our brethren realize how important the organization of the church is, not just by telling them about it, but by working hard on achieving it. We are involving them in the work of the Lord since day one. Our brothers need to realize how gratifying is to serve the Lord, whether in leading a song, a prayer, the Lord’s Supper, the collection, preaching, teaching, or delivering a short exhortation, and we are doing that by encouraging them to do it. Our sisters need to realize how gratifying is to serve the Lord, by teaching our children and helping in many other areas.

Most importantly, we are planting the seed, that is our job. We are encouraging our brethren to bring visitors, to study with them, and if they do not feel comfortable leading the study then to invite us to help them do it. We are planning to have a Personal Evangelism Seminar later on this year.

One brother a few months ago told me, in simple words, that I was dreaming big, and that those things will not be possible. Well, I keep dreaming big, and I know we can achieve those dreams. I know it because it is God’s work, we are just servants. We have been able to achieve a lot in a short time. It might take a long time to achieve more of those “dreams”, but we know that we can do it with God’s help. And, with your help! We are thankful for your prayers, words of encouragement, and financial support. We are still in need of more support to finally be balanced. We are teaching and encouraging our brethren to recognize that foreign support should not be the only support a preacher receives. A local preacher needs that the local brethren help him and his family to do the work of the Lord. We are thankful that they are realizing it and even when we are a small group, the collection is higher than bigger congregations I met in this country. But, in the meantime we got able to achieve this, we need more supporters to help us to keep our bills and needs covered. I know, it is not easy, but we truly need

more supporters. If you know someone who would like to get involved in mission work, please let him or her know about our need and the work we do. We would love to have a video call if needed.

May God bless you richly in everything you do! You are in our prayers and we are and will forever be thankful for having you in our lives. Lord willing, we will be able to see some of you again during the coming MSOP lectureships. If not, please know that you are always in our thoughts and prayers, and we look forward for that day when we will never need to say, “see you soon”.

## ARTICLES AND SERMONS

- We are currently migrating our missions’ website (<http://goyeintoall.org>) to WordPress to be able to make it easier to access and provide details of our work. Lord willing, it must be ready in the coming week.
- As mentioned before, we do Facebook live for our morning worship service (excluding announcements), and record the Bible study, and both sermons, and upload them to our YouTube channel. A page has been enabled in the congregation’s website to access those <http://idclasvillas.org/sermones>
- The congregation’s bulletin is only available in Spanish, but can be also accessed through the website, <http://idclasvillas.org/boletines>
- We keep posting short studies and preacher quotes in our social media accounts.
- Articles written in English will continue being posted at [goyeintoall.org](http://goyeintoall.org) while the ones in Spanish will be at [idclasvillas.org](http://idclasvillas.org). In this way we can avoid having people seeking for content in their language in the wrong site.

## PICTURES



Saying Good Bye to 2018 with family and brethren



It was also sister Maria’s birthday (the reason for the banner in the back)



Group picture taken during our first worship service as “Iglesia de Cristo en Las Villas”



My dad came to visit us earlier this year. He bought us a projector to help us with our services



Jonathan is our song leader. He does a good job



My father in law, Tomas, has been helping us by preaching in the afternoon services.





We have been recording the sermons and classes. Also, the morning services has been live streamed.



This is how our living room is converted into the auditorium every Sunday morning.



Our dear sisters made a contribution to buy essential items for the coming of baby Leonid

## CONTACT INFORMATION

---

### Phone Numbers:

- Marlon's cell phone: +507 6288-7718 - Jacky's cell phone: +507 6278-6799.
- Home: +507 343-7116.
- Skype, WhatsApp, or Facebook Messenger works great for us.

### Mailing Address:

Still pending for the Post Office to get an available P.O. Box.

### Email and Social Media.

- Website: <http://www.goyeintoall.org>
- Social Media: @goyeintoall (Facebook and Instagram) / @goyeinto\_ (Twitter).
- Social Media (Spanish): @idportodo (Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook).
- E-mails:  
[marlon\\_retana@hotmail.com](mailto:marlon_retana@hotmail.com) / [jacky\\_haughton@hotmail.com](mailto:jacky_haughton@hotmail.com) / [jrhaughton@live.com](mailto:jrhaughton@live.com)
- Iglesia de Cristo en Las Villas: [idclasvillas@gmail.com](mailto:idclasvillas@gmail.com) / <http://idclasvillas.org>
  - Social media: @idclasvillas