

THE WALDECKERS



HERE ARE SOME DATES IN BETWEEN TRAVELS THAT WE ARE RESERVING TO VISIT CHURCHES. IF YOU WOULD LIKE US TO VISIT, PLEASE LET US KNOW:

1. OCTOBER 2
2. OCTOBER 9
3. OCTOBER 16
4. NOVEMBER 6
5. POSSIBLY OTHER WEEKENDS IN NOVEMBER

Missionary Apprenticeship Program

In May Phyllis and I visited MTW's missionary team in Costa Rica. Rodney Dávila is the team leader. This team is partnering with a Costa Rican church called ICRICEN, which in turn has various partner churches throughout the country.

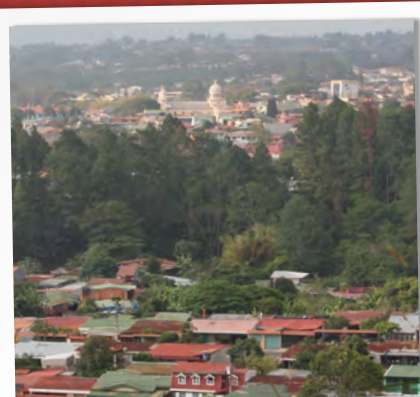
The purpose of this visit, and of others that will follow, was to prepare for and design a program to help all our new missionaries heading to Latin America acquire the skills necessary to plant churches cross-culturally. We will be partnering with the MTW team in Costa Rica and their partners to carry out this important project.



GARY PREACHING AT ICRICEN



A CHURCH WILL MEET HERE



SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

MTW's New Missionary Apprenticeship Program

I have been asked by MTW to design and implement an apprenticeship training program for all new missionaries heading to Latin America.

The purpose of this project is to make MTW's church planting ministry in Latin America more effective by building on and deepening the training of MTW's missionaries going to Latin America in how to plant and revitalize churches cross-culturally by...

1. Deepening their understanding of how to plant missional churches cross-culturally by dealing biblically and practically with the nuances of the challenge within a Latin American context.
2. Showing these new missionaries how to make effective and practical use of their theoretical training in the areas of cross-cultural church planting and teamwork.

3. Involving them in specific, supervised and targeted church planting experiences in conjunction with MTW's church planting/revitalization team in Costa Rica, the Costa Rican leaders with whom they partner, other invited Latin American leaders, and other MTW personnel.

4. Extending their stay in Costa Rica for language training by up to one year in order to accomplish these goals.

Generally speaking, the training experiences will include:

1. Observing specific church planting skills performed by more experienced missionaries and Latin America leaders.
2. Attempting to put those skills into practice in real cross-cultural situations.
3. Receiving feedback from more experienced missionaries and Latin American leaders on how well they did.

MISSIONARIES AND COSTA RICAN LEADERS



THE GANG



ATHAEL & ANDRÉS



SUGAR CANE JUICE



CHURCH IN A GYM



FRESH PINEAPPLE

4. Receiving further instruction and practice opportunities that bring their theoretical knowledge, practice and motivation together until they learn how to do it effectively.

This project is extremely important because it bridges the existing gap between what the PCA is so good at—knowledge—and its practical implementation. Currently the training in cross-cultural church planting and team ministry that MTW missionaries receive is largely inside the classroom. The Missionary Apprenticeship Program seeks to minimize learning by trial and error and to maximize and leverage the expertise of experienced missionaries and Latin America leaders for the benefit of new missionaries.

The project is also important because it gives Latin American leaders some influence in how we train our personnel. Latin American leaders throughout the region have requested that MTW missionaries learn better how to minister cross-culturally.

How to Learn...

Just how do missionaries best learn how to plant churches cross culturally? Is seminary enough? I don't think so. Learning that has a positive kingdom impact requires more than the acquisition of new facts and paradigms in a classroom setting or from books.

From a biblical perspective, learning requires putting new information to use in a way that honors the Lord--that is, it requires obedience in context.

The Pharisees had a lot of true information about the Old



MOISÉS

MOISÉS IS THE PASTOR OF THE CHURCH (ICRICEN) WITH WHICH THE MTW TEAM IS PARTNERING. ON THIS VISIT HE AND I HAD A NUMBER OF LONG TALKS ABOUT PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY IN PREPARATION FOR THE MISSIONARY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM.



RODNEY

RODNEY IS THE LEADER OF THE NEWLY FORMED MTW TEAM IN COSTA RICA. HE USED TO BE A MEMBER OF MY MLD TEAM, BUT HE FELT THE CALL, AND I ENCOURAGED HIM IN IT, TO THIS NEW POSITION. NOW WE ARE WORKING TOGETHER AS PARTNERS.



ANDRÉS

ANDRÉS IS ONE OF THE RULING ELDERS (A VERY YOUNG ONE!) AT THE ICRICEN CHURCH. HE AND I HAD A NUMBER A VERY INTERESTING TALKS DURING OUR VISIT.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for Gary as he develops MTW's new Missionary Apprenticeship Program in Costa Rica and in conjunction with MTW's Costa Rica church planting team. He will be making a number of trips there this coming year.
2. Pray for the MTW leadership meeting in Turkey in September. Many of our local partners will be with us at this meeting and important issues will be discussed.
3. Pray for Gary and Phyllis as they work with MTW's church planting team in Bogotá, Colombia, this October. The focus will be team dynamics and leadership training.
4. We're very happy that our oldest son, Micah, and Stephanie, were married on June 25th.

CONTACT INFO

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Websites:

<http://partners.waldecker.net>

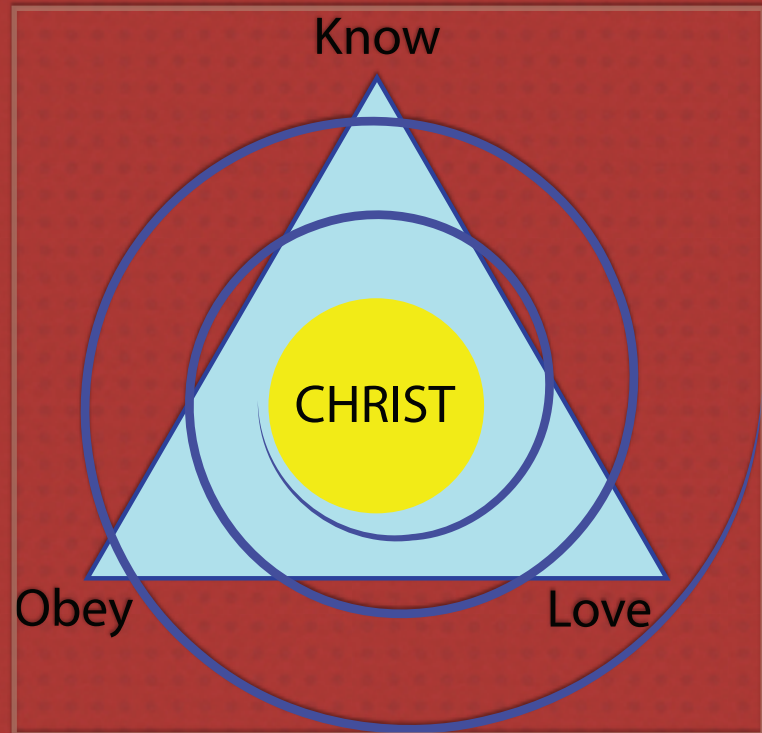
<http://www.missionalview.com>

<http://www.mld.cc>

<http://www.mtwla.org>

<http://www.garywaldecker.com>

COVENANTAL LEARNING



How to learn...

Testament, but used it to bring glory to themselves. That's why Jesus said of the Pharisees, "Do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach" (Mt. 23:3).

The more you put into practice what you know intellectually, the more the Lord opens your mind to deeper understanding. As the Psalmist says, "I have more understanding than the elders, for I obey your precepts" (119:100). Obedience leads to deeper understanding.

Furthermore, learning requires not only putting knowledge to work in obedience, but it also requires love. The more you

love, the more the Lord opens your mind to understand more deeply (Ephesians 3:17-19).

Knowledge, obedience and love all enrich each other as they are integrated around Christ, as shown in the diagram above. This is what I call "Covenantal Learning." It is in this sense that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ (Col. 2.3).

This is the philosophy of learning behind the Missionary Apprenticeship Program that I am designing for implementation in Costa Rica and other fields. Missionaries learn to use what they know in the midst of the real spiritual battle.