

Continued...

fact of short term missions trips because to reasons that many others have also noted: they can be too superficial, they can be more focused on the experience of the missionaries than on the mission itself, and they can be “flashes in the pot” of mission, brief experiences that don’t make much of a difference in the long run. I still wonder how healthy it is for southern orphanages to be invaded by successive groups of northerners throughout the year. Are we introducing too much chaos into the lives of those children? It’s worth considering.



Some kids Lima show off their dog

But my thinking has been changing. The more I return to different areas, the more I see the need for holistic involvement with churches and pastors. In Lima my main contact, Reynaldo Rubio, has a church within a mile of an extremely poor area. Every time I go back there I feel pulled to do something. It’s natural. The more you dig in, the more you see.

Short term mission trips do not *have* to be superficial by definition. We can be creative, we can be thoughtful about what we do. For example, I was inspired by the film *Born into Brothels* where the point was to provide poor children with opportunities by exposing them to the art of photography. And short term trips can also be long term in the sense that we can build into the program the value of adopting a place and returning to it.

A final reason that has me imagining short term missions is that it is a great opportunity to create global Christians and build a team of long term partners for mission. So don’t be surprised if in the future you find an opportunity for short term missions on these pages.

PO Box 1358 Bellingham, WA 98227 | 360.647.1686 | info@senderis.com | www.senderission.com

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Bellingham, WA 98227

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Please consider partnering with Senderis to bring much needed training and support to the growing Latin-American church.

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* Note that you can now make checks out to either Senderis or Servant King Ministries.



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WELCOME BRYAN LLANO

Brayan Llano is a young Christian leader in Cochabamba, Bolivia.



Brayan Llano in Cochabamba

Over the course of two years of interaction with Brayan it has become obvious that he shares many of the core values of Senderis: an interest in theological education, interdenominational work, and training pastors who lack resources. Because of this and because of his expressed interest in working with us, we have entered into a partnership which will greatly help Senderis achieve its mission of training pastors and leaders in Latin America, specifically, in Bolivia.

Brayan’s work with Senderis will cover the following areas:

- Coordination of conferences and teaching events throughout Bolivia. Brayan is already working on an event in March 2011.
- Train pastors in “el campo” (the countryside). Pastors working in the valleys surrounding Cochabamba lack the training and resources to do their work and very little is being done to help them by the institutions in the city. Part of this training will be the development, in partnership with Senderis director Rob, of a course of



One of the Quechua churches that Brayan works with

study for these pastors and leaders.

- Brayan is also a talented web programmer. He will help Senderis maintain web sites and create new ones as needed (ex. Web sites for individual conferences). This includes not only Senderis sites, but the sites that Senderis hosts for other ministries.
- We also discussed the possibility that Brayan could coordinate short-term mission trips in Bolivia through his contacts in the rural areas around Cochabamba, should Senderis go that direction.

How to HELP	• Support Brayan financially
	• Pray for Bolivian pastors
	• Sponsor a Skype interview with Brayan at your church

EXPLORATIONS INTO CUBA

Initial contact

For over a year now I have been in contact with a Cuban leader about how Senderis might help with his ministry. He found out about us through another Christian leader in Bolivia.

I finally connected with this person last month and we spoke on the phone for about 20 minutes. This brother runs a church planting and evangelistic ministry with a staff of 21 people who work all over Cuba. He reports that the church there is growing very quickly and one of their crucial needs is to train both old and new leaders. He spoke of having contact with some 2000 of these pastors. Some challenges related to Cuba:

- There is quite a bit of foreign help to Cuban Christians in the area of leadership training. However, most of it is limited to the area around Havana, the country’s capital, whereas the majority of believers and growth is in the central and eastern part of the island.
- There are also seminaries in Cuba. According to my friend, however, they have a very small capacity and many people simply cannot attend them anyway. So a more informal approach is needed to keep up with the numbers. Of course this is exactly what Senderis is about.

- Another ongoing challenge in Cuba is the lack of Christian literature. Ironically, Cuba's socialist government has ensured that everyone can read and so it is a highly literate culture. This means that they of all Latin American countries could benefit from good Christian books. But lack of resources and governmental controls severely limit the availability of Christian books.

I wanted to talk to this person on the phone instead of just emailing back and forth so that I could get to know him a bit and get an idea of his work and his needs. As I was running out of credit for the call (1 dollar per minute!) we decided that the next step would be for me to visit for a few days and get an introduction to what is happening. It's just too difficult to communicate between here and there.

Participation with Action International



Brian Stewart of Action International is that organization's Cuba representative and I spent half a day with him recently at the Action offices in Seattle. Action is a mission organization that works in some 10 countries around the world and has been in Cuba for several years. Brian and I had a really good time and Action offered to help me get permission from the US Department of Treasury to travel to Cuba. We are also talking about collaborating on other fronts. For example, Action prints books in Cuba and might print my book on interpretation to give away or sell inexpensively there.

My exploratory trip to Cuba is scheduled for **September 12-15**. I will combine it with a teaching trip to Merida, which is near Cancun. Please pray for this development!

How to HELP

- Pray for good relations with Cuban officials
- Help with airfare from Merida (\$450.00)
- Call Rob and find out more: 360 647 1686

CONFERENCES IN LIMA AND BOLIVIA

Randolph and I did combined conferences in Lima, Peru and Cochabamba, Bolivia. The conferences presented two topics specially crafted for leaders:

Preaching the letters of Paul, by Rob

I introduced Paul's writings, his ideas and his style with a special eye to sermon preparation and delivery. Paul was basically a preacher who happened to also write, so his letters are not only the materials for sermon preparation. They are also examples of how to preach.



The Lima Team: Randolph, Rob and organizing pastors



Rob with some participants in Cochabamba



Rob in Lima



Randolph video taped in Cochabamba

This turned out to be a very fruitful insight.

How to do premarital counseling, by Randolph.

We are concerned that many pastors in Latin America do not have the know-how to do premarital counseling, or in many cases even the idea that it ought to be done. Randolph presented training for pastors on how to do this. We were also able to place a manual for pastoral counseling in the hands of each attendee so that they had a practical guide to the process.

In these two cities the response to Senderis conferences has been so good that we are now planning even larger events for 2011 and talking about gathering several hundred leaders. We have already set dates in March and have Senderis representatives there who believe in what we are doing working on the details.

How to HELP

- Pray for next year's conferences
- \$50 month for 8 months will help our Peruvian partner promote and plan for next year

HELP WANTED

Our staff is growing and we need help! We are currently looking and praying for partners to help in two areas:

Assistant Director

This person will help run the organization. In coordination with the director he or she will help manage donor relations, do presentations at churches, organize fund raisers, help with web content and newsletters, help with bookkeeping, help dream and strategize, and occasionally travel internationally as well.

Short Term Mission Trips Director

We are thinking about expanding to run short term mission trips. Our trips would be oriented to creative service with lasting impact, they would educate participants, and they would encourage long term commitment to particular locations. The primary appeal would be to adults. This is the kind of expansion that depends on having the right person.

Since this is a mission, these are support based positions, meaning we work together to raise funds for salary. See more information at: www.senderission.com/help-wanted

How to HELP

- Pass this news of help wanted on to a friend
- Offer to help support this new position
- Pray for wisdom and for the right people

NEW WEB ADDRESS

Until recently the English website for Senderis has been a subsection of the Spanish site. Thanks to Braylan Llano we now have a unique web address dedicated to English where our stateside supporters can keep in touch:



www.senderission.com

Take a look at it and tell us what you think. We have also included an option for online donations.

How to HELP

- Visit the web site
- Pass it on to a friend
- Put a link to Senderission.com on your church site

FUND RAISING INFO MEETINGS

Both Randolph and I are organizing info meetings for late summer and fall. These meetings consist of a desert and coffee time, a presentation of the vision and work of Senderis and also live interviews with Senderis partners and coworkers in different countries. The interviews are conducted via Skype, using video projection for everyone to see. We are running two versions of these info meetings.

- (1) One option is that we organize the whole thing and invite our own guests.
- (2) The other option is that a church or group of people sponsor the event.

If your church would like to put this on, please contact us! We are currently doing them in Northwest Washington and Southern Texas.

How to HELP

- Host an info meeting for your church or group
- Find out if there are meetings in your area

IMAGINING SHORT TERM MISSIONS

People often ask me if Senderis does short term mission trips. Until recently my answer has invariably been no. My reasons have been that the work of Senderis is very specialized (teaching) and that it is all in Spanish. There does not seem to be much room for help from a group of English speakers. Beyond this I have always been a bit concerned about the im-