Maná digital.net
...y les dio trigo del cielo.
VOLUME 5, ISSUE 2 FALL 2023

Come With Me, my friend, on an imaginary visit to the prophet's house. It's the eighth century B.C., and as we walk down a road lined with olive trees, we find a small adobe house in the moonlight, reach the door, and knock. An elderly lady opens the door and we ask, "Is the prophet home?" She bids us follow her, and we walk down a dark hall, turn a corner, and she opens a door into a room where one lonely window allows a bit of moonlight in. At the desk in the darkest corner is the prophet, dressed in a rough robe, and dipping a quill into ink. He's bent over a desk, with an oil lamp providing light for the momentous task at hand. He's writing intently, completely oblivious to his surroundings. As we stand by in holy silence, the prophet halts a bit and scratches his head in wonder. Then he continues slowly, carefully dotting each *yod* י and crossing each *tav* ת.

> He had no form or majesty that we should look at Him, nor beauty that we should desire Him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief, one from whom people hide their faces. He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

We hear a deep sigh as he whispers. *I wish I'd know who exactly I am writing about! Is this all about myself and my troubles? Is it about the Coming One? Adonai, I don't even understand it, but I can't stop writing!* The messenger bends over his quill again, and continues:

> Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our pains. Yet we esteemed Him stricken, struck by God, and afflicted. But He was pierced because of our transgressions, crushed because of our iniquities. The chastisement for our shalom was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

The old man doesn't add verse numbers, nor does he stop for chapter titles. He's just writing his heart out to his lost people, and tears are falling now. He doesn't understand what's coming over him, but the weight of the moment impels him to go on.

> We all like sheep have gone astray. Each of us turned to his own way. So Adonai has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter, like a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth.

What did I just write? I'm sure we are the lost sheep. That is clear! But now a lamb is led to the slaughter for our sake. Is it just another temple lamb? Or is it a person? Or, God forbid, could it be the Messiah I'm writing about, blessed be His name? Adonai, I really want to understand!

Overcome, the old man bows his head and shakes with sobs. He knows the condition of his people. And most importantly, he knows the requirements of his Holy God. The great distance that lies between his people and his God overwhelms him. And when Isaiah foggily sees the picture of the plan of redemption, the Messiah suffering for their sakes, feelings of unworthiness engulf him.

"Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" (1 Peter 1:10-11).

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Man's whole life is made for meaning. If he loves God, his experiences are tailored precisely for what the Sovereign One wants him to do. He receives the inspiration from the wind of the Holy Spirit, and the weight of the moment lowers his shoulders a bit, as if

carrying a load. Though his mind can't comprehend it all, he picks up the quill, and writes. Sometimes the message is not even that clear to himself. Sometimes it's not understood by others. But, if written in the fear of God, the message will go forth, and generate the change that it was intended to bring. Generations will rise and fall, and what is written will continue to impact the world long after the prophet is gone.

Here at Digital Manna, we ponder on how to make a difference for others in this life. Though the medium changes, and now we type on keyboards instead of writing with quills, the message we try to convey is still the same unchangeable message that Isaiah brought us: a Lamb dying for the world. Can we as a publishing house help provide answers for the questions asked in today's Spanish world? Can we provide written examples of faith in action?

As in the time of Isaiah of old, our world badly in needs the Prince of Peace. One way to get the word out is to write about Him and the people who follow him. Books, stories, tracts, messages; they are all a part of our toolkit. Can we continue to faithfully generate literature that draws people to the Messiah?

What about you, my friend? Has the visit to the prophet's house impacted you? Are you carrying the weight of that message in your heart? **As the dark gets darker, what are you writing with your quill?**

—Jacinto Yoder

MARION GARBER

In Memory of Marion Garber

Last year we lost several long-time visionaries and contributors to the Spanish publishing work and mission planting. Marion Garber's life was taken suddenly by an aneurysm that caused massive bleeding to his brain. Marion was active in helping with church planting efforts in Brazil, Mexico, and various other Central and South American countries. He was also instrumental in the formation of Mount Zion Literature Ministry and attended many book conventions and distributors' meetings. Marion was always an enthusiastic supporter of outreach and publishing efforts. His last year was spent at a mission outpost near the Mexico/US border working with Spanish immigrants.

In our minds, Marion's contribution was needed for many more years but, "Who can know the mind of the Lord?" The purpose of this tribute is not to give undue praise to mortal man, but we hope the examples of those we lost will inspire a new generation to take up the torch and ensure that the gospel is being published to all nations until Christ returns.

-Andrew Yoder

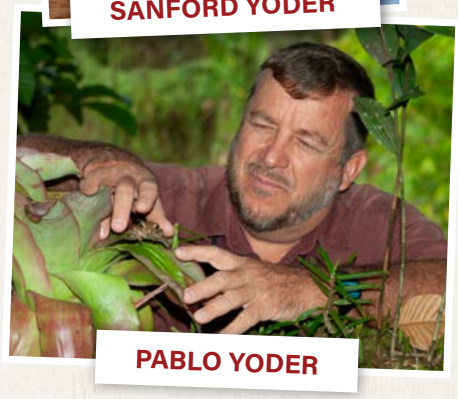
In Memory of Sanford Yoder and Pablo Yoder

Great feats begin with small dreams. These dreams are often the brainchild of a visionary person who, having rooted his dream and started the work, moves on and is soon forgotten. Two of these visionaries are Sanford Yoder and his son Pablo, both of whom were deeply involved in the ministry of Christian literature.

Sanford Yoder dreamt of our churches in Costa Rica becoming involved in the publishing and printing of Christian literature. It was a dream he often spoke of. In the early 1980's, the AMA mission in El Salvador was printing the Fuente de Luz magazine, which provided some Christian literature for the Latin American churches. But, they were forced to shut down during the civil war, leaving the churches once again without sound reading materials in terms of periodicals.

When the civil war ended, the AMA mission decided to permanently terminate the printing of the Fuente de Luz magazine and suggested the churches in Costa Rica take up a similar work. This suggestion was an exciting one to Sanford and he began to share his dream for a publishing ministry based in Costa Rica. As his vision progressed, a board was formed and the fledgling Publicadora La Merced (PLM) work began in 1987 with the printing of 800 copies of La Antorcha de la Verdad, a bi-monthly magazine of which today the circulation has grown to 400,000 copies. The need for Christian school materials was another need that Sanford was aware of. And in just a few short years, that dream began to develop into reality. Today PLM, along with Rod and Staff, are happy to offer a complete set of elementary curriculum.

SANFORD YODER



PABLO YODER

Sanford's vision for spreading the gospel through the printed page was embraced by members of his family as well. Pablo, as a youth, was a prolific writer of poetry and other works, and assisted Lamp and Light Publishers with their Bible Study programs as well. He also became involved in and made tremendous contributions to the publishing work at PLM.

Truly, God has been the instigator and the enabler of these dreams come true. These two visionary brothers are no longer with us, but God is using others to carry out these dreams. May He find us faithful!

-Duane Nisly, PLM director
Pital, Costa Rica

Get involved

- Pray
- Spread the word to your friends
- Use our material as a witnessing tool
- Sign up for our newsletter
- Offer to help in this effort
- Sponsor a project
- Donate funds
- Suggest translation projects that you think may be needed

Maná Digital's audio messages, audio books, ebooks, and songs are available for free at ***anabaptistresources.org***

New E-books

In ***Edificaré mi iglesia (I Will Build My Church),*** Val Yoder writes about the local church structure, and how God works among his people. He explores some of the common authority structures used today, comparing them to the Word of God and His plan for leadership among his people. He shows how the church can work together as a body, fulfilling God's plan on Earth. Val provides advice on many practical issues in relating to leaders and lay members in the body of Christ.

In ***Como poderoso gigante (Like a Mighty Giant),*** Teni grows up in Southern Costa Rica, and her life holds many interesting twists and turns. Being the oldest in the family brings many challenges, and the rural lifestyle gives much story-telling material for those who were born in a modern era. Throughout the whole book, you can see Teni being called closer to God and notice her response to that call. Though at times it seems like she is alone and defeated, God has never left her. He is with her "like a mighty giant."

Book Printing

¿Por qué, Dios, por qué? (Why, God, Why?) by Lester Bauman, is a thought-provoking booklet that points a person toward finding comfort in life's suffering. Can we trust God when things aren't as they should be? This book is intended to be a consolation to those who have suffered. It begins with the foundational truth of who God is. It addresses the often distorted pictures of God humans have created. We hope to help people find an anchoring faith in God during difficulties. Even when it seems like He has abandoned us.

This booklet will be an important addition to MZL's bookracks and Christian's bookshelves in Latin America. We pray that it will also be useful as a witnessing tool.

Maná Digital has also had *Por qué, Dios, por qué (Why, God, Why)* in digital in digital format for a few years but would like to raise the funds necessary to print it for wider distribution. Its small size will make it ideal for handing out at tract distributions. If you feel led to give a contribution to this project, please notate your donation for the PQDPQ project.

In 2022 we printed 3,000 copies of *Más fuerte que la hoguera* (Stronger Than Fire) by Mark Yoder. It has sold well, and we are hoping to continue to print more titles.

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HELP FUND » Most of our translations are donation based. If you would like to help fund translations into Spanish, you may send a check to our mailing address. We will provide you with a tax-deductible receipt, and a detailed financial report is available upon request.

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