



Bruno and Kathleen Soucy
CBM Latin America Team Leaders

by Ruth Anna Dana

Bruno and Kathleen Soucy, CBM team leaders in Latin America, look forward with gratitude to the new year before them. The verse of promise they share is Isaiah 43:19: "... I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it? I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland" (NLT). In their seventeenth year of ministry, they have moved to the new location of Lake Atitlan, Guatemala. They continue to support all the Latin American partners in Bolivia, Cuba, the Dominican Republic (DR), and El Salvador.

In the new year, the Soucys anticipate new partnerships with

Guatemalan partners. Last fall they travelled north to the Q'eqchi' area in Peten and Alta Verapaz to meet the leaders of three separate Convention of Baptist Churches of Guatemala. The Q'eqchi' are one of 23 Indigenous people



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groups whose language bears no resemblance to Spanish. Co-worker Byron Velásquez (CBM national field staff) communicates

CBM's model of partnership to the Guatemalan churches. The new partners will bring the resources of knowing their own communities and their culture while CBM comes alongside to participate in the message of hope and healing in Christ. Pray that these rapidly growing churches would stand strong in learning to be self-

governing, self-supporting, and self-propagating.

The Soucys' colleague, Bill Dyck, is expanding the online and in-person "Pastor to Pastor" program to younger church leaders. He teaches not only theological education, but also the practical aspects of ministry in community engagement.

In March, Bruno and Kathleen had a second visit to their CBM partner, the Fraternity of Baptist Churches in Cuba. The partner churches are struggling with the issues of hunger and lack of employment, inadequate health care, poor access to education, and corruption in the society. Daily living in Cuba, with the insecurity of the economic crisis and antiquated systems, has led to a legal and illegal mass migration of the younger generation. This has left the churches with fewer youth and young

families. For those youth who remain in the churches, CBM is focusing on supporting them to create their own jobs, and also seeks to encourage the pastors, who struggle to find the basic necessities of life. Upcoming visits to the Caribbean countries will be important as field workers seek to gain understanding of each national partner's context and how CBM can

collaborate in effective ways with each partner.

This year has brought renewal, with more than 12 CBM SENT teams from Canada to visit Latin America. Recently, a Kurios team, under the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada, spent several weeks in Guatemala. Other SENT teams will travel to Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Bolivia. In mid-February, CBM Global Field Staff in Guatemala Kathryn Scott travelled with a team from her home church in New Brunswick, Douglas Baptist, on an outreach trip to the DR. The Soucys share that "facilitating these trips will allow Canadian church supporters to experience firsthand the initiatives of the local church around

children's education, leadership training, economic activities, and serving the local community, and sharing God's love in practical and tangible ways."



Photo Courtesy of Kathryn Scott

The Soucys at Lake Atitlan, their new home, with colleagues Byron Velásquez and Kathryn Scott.

Pray for those preparing and hosting these visits, and for those taking part, that each follower of Christ involved would experience spiritual growth and also produce growth in the churches that those believers represent.

Sources: CBM newsletter updates from the Soucys (Aug. and Dec. 2022 and Jan. 2023), and Kathryn Scott (Jan. 2023); CBM Prayerline.



Photo Courtesy of Kathryn Scott

Kathryn Scott (left) with the Kurios team