



MINTS

Refresh

...the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Phil 1:7

February, 2024

THE NEWSLETTER OF MINTS INTERNATIONAL SEMINARY

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

We had our Annual MINTS Dean's Conference in Old Cutler Presbyterian Church in Miami in late January 2023. Once a year, the leaders of MINTS get together to pray, report, and discuss the running of MINTS.

The meeting is always encouraging as we hear of God's work in missions, get field reports, and hear men suggest how to improve the work of MINTS in their areas of the world. This year, we had men representing MINTS in person or via Zoom from Canada, the USA, Albania, Serbia, Central America, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Ecuador, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Venezuela, South Africa, Malawi,



Kenya, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Zambia.



A few of the people present at the annual meeting.

The key to MINTS has been empowering the local study centers, so they can carry on the great commission with us. Too many missions are led by Western missionaries, who hold all the power. In MINTS, there is an active drive to replace Western missionaries with suitable men from different areas of the world. We listen to each other,

plan for what is best for MINTS, and then support and encourage one another in our work. The diversity of MINTS is seen in its leadership, although right now, the African elements are under-represented due to time and travel costs.

A FEW THINGS TO NOTE FROM THE MEETING

- The number of overall graduates was down from last year as we faced government obstacles in southern African countries and the loss of key personnel on the English side. Still, we rejoiced to hear that the Spanish numbers have increased dramatically. We should catch up again in graduate levels as we manage the issues we face in 2024. (See INSERT for numbers.)
- In **Zambia**, the work of MINTS under **Pascal Siliongwe** (right) is growing fast. We now have an excess of 250 students in many centers throughout the country.

Pascal Siliongwe



- This year, we have launched an updated version of **MINTSOnline-English**, aimed at single students who cannot work in a group or need to catch up. We will be integrating these video lectures and hope to build out the program this year.

Continued on page 2





FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK *(continued from page 1)*



In this newsletter, we would like to feature some of the ministry work from the Spanish side of MINTS, under the leadership of **Esau Reyes**, which over the past few years has grown significantly.

Keep reading for some exciting MINTS news from Esau about Mexico, Chile, Cuba, Columbia and Ecuador.

And, if you're into numbers, we have added a special insert with a summary of MINTS diplomas granted during 2023. These numbers always excite us!

Julian

Julian Zugg (Ph.D)
President



M. Div. Esau Reyes
De La Cruz



MINTS Spanish Team: (back row) Eric Pennings, Jose Ramirez, Francisco Tamarez
(front row) Juan Lobo, Willie Nieves, Esau Reyes, Jamie Morales, Bridigido Caberra

MEXICO

featuring Esau Reyes

NEW MINTS CENTERS IN MEXICO

1. **MINTS King of Kings Center.** This is one of the most relevant churches in Guadalajara and directs a movement to plant churches. Here we train their supporters and movement leaders.
2. **Reformed Seminary of Guadalajara.** We signed a convention with the *Presbytery of the Bajío* and started classes with their Candidates-to-Pastor and pastors who require leveling and obtaining an academic degree.
3. **MINTS Presbytery of the North Coast of Tabasco.** Here we started with a group in 2022 and after a dialogue with their current leaders we have 220 students in 11 MINTS centers to train their *ancaions* (elderly), deacons and church leaders. With the first group we graduated 21

students and we hope to see many more graduates next year in *Certificate in Theological Studies*.



Graduates from Tabasco, Mexico

4. **Theology for Life Institute.** With God's grace we have signed an agreement with this Institute of *Theology for Life* that has 50 students who work in zoom classes and through an online platform based in

Rafael Riveros, Director of the Institute of Theology for Life, signing an agreement with MINTS

continued on page 3



MEXICO

continued from page 2

Mexico City and we will certify these new students to start the bachelor's and master's degree programs in Theological Studies.

5. **MINTS Mexico City.** For more than 20 years we have tried to have a MINTS Center in Mexico City and by the grace of God this year we started with a group of 27 students working on their *Certificate in Theological Studies*.

RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHEASTERN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY AND THE R. TABASCO SYNOD



We have renewed a four-year agreement with this seminary and the *Synod of Tabasco* to continue the development of MINTS Licentiate (degree) and Master's degree within the scope of this Synod and its theological seminary. *Glory to God!*

TABASCO: AUGUST 11-21, 2023

This is a state in Mexico where we have many Certificate groups, in addition to the agreement with the Southeast Seminary. During this trip we were in a small, semi-rural town that we used as a base to visit six MINTS groups with 105 students.

I was also able to teach the Word to 1700 people at a conference where many believers gathered in an open-air field, which was indeed a great blessing to see the people of God learn the Word of God



CHILE

NATIONAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHILE

During February 4-15, 2023 we visited the IPNA (National Presbyterian Church of Chile) and I had the opportunity to have **Dr. Ernesto Ucan**, one of our Mexican doctors, accompany me to lecture at the IPNA family camp where families from all over the denomination gather.

The conference was about the importance of church revitalization and

biblical

strategies for

making an impact. We had the opportunity to minister to over 150 camp participants and offer counseling and mentoring. AEMAS ratified the support of MINTS for education and collaboration with its John Calvin Theological Seminary.





COLUMBIA

COLOMBIA: SEPTEMBER 1-9, 2023



We visited the Centers of Santa Martha, Barranquilla, Ibagué and Bogota, teaching in each of them, advising planters and encouraging our graduate students. The work in Colombia had a small bump but now with the recovery of the groups in Santa Martha and Barranquilla we are again having a strong presence in Colombia. I had the opportunity to present **Cesar Contreras** with his Master's degree in Theological Studies and we hope in 2024, with our graduate student, to start a new group in Monteria, Colombia.

CUBA

CUBA: JUNE 29-JULY 6, 2023

We were finally able to return to Cuba. **Dr. Nelson Donet** was our mentor and with whom we toured the island of Punta Punta in a week, meeting the local coordinators and groups of students with whom we had conferences and classes. In Cuba we have more than 1700 students at all levels, who despite the limitations dedicate themselves with great enthusiasm to the theory of the extension of the Gospel and the training and development of leaders. Let us pray for the shortcomings and needs of our students and graduates who struggle every day with an ideology that oppresses their freedoms, yet they are free in Christ.



ECUADOR

ECUADOR: NOVEMBER 6-14, 2023

In Ecuador we have a program in prisons led by **Gerardo Recal**, a graduate of MINTS, with a passion and joy for teaching the leaders of prisoners in the prisons, who in turn minister to their peers. I had the privilege of giving a class on *Covenant Theology* to 45 Christians who gathered for this purpose. Taking theology classes and graduating relieves them of the time of their sentence. In addition, our Coordinator in Ecuador directs the local centers and the promotion of the program, encouraging students to preach the reformation and grace of the Gospel. I had the opportunity to teach 5 classes to different groups each day and it was truly a blessing to be able to see the enthusiasm and the way MINTS influences and works for the kingdom and Reformed work in this nation.



Celebrating 22 years of ministry. As this work continues, we hope our current partners in this ministry continue to see the vision and we can share this vision with others that will join with us.

Your partnership is appreciated in support of the MINTS global seminaries as well as MINTS individuals and administration. Go to www.mints.edu/give for support information.





Diplomas Granted During 2023

Reported by Dr. Eric Pennings ~ MINTS International Academic Dean

SPANISH

Country	# of Graduates
Venezuela	12
Colombia	20
Dominican Republic	1
Spain	1
Ecuador	7
Guatemala	1
El Salvador	21
Panama	14
Mexico	59
Chile	3

ENGLISH

Country	# of Graduates
USA	14
Kenya	46
South Africa	35
Zambia	54
Portuguese Countries Brazil	5
Other Countries Russia	1

TOTAL

Spanish Graduates	139
English Graduates	149
Portuguese Graduates	5
Russian Graduate	1
Total	294



YEARLY COMPARISON

Year	Hon.	CTS	AATS	BATS	MATS	MCE	Mdiv	Dmin	Ph.D	Total
2022	0	95	119	198	28	0	3	2	0	445
2023	0	107	64	104	11	0	3	4	1	294
Percentage of Graduates		45%	24%	24%	5%		1%	2%	0.4%	

HISTORICAL RESULTS

	Hon.	CTS	AATS	BATS	MATS	MCE	Mdiv	Dmin	Ph.D	Total
Graduate Total										
2000-2023	14	1764	1038	2360	733	3	56	55	12	6035
Percentage of Graduates	0.23%	29%	17%	39%	12%	0.05%	1%	1%	0.20%	

SEMINARY-IN-PRISON

Reported by Neal Hegeman

The ministry started in 2010 at the Zephyrhills Correctional Center. As of December 2023, we have **22** English speaking programs and **12** Spanish ones. There were **22** graduates in 2023, bringing our total number of graduates to **192**. At the end of 2023, we have more than **450** students studying MINTS courses in prison.



As far as we can tell, in the USA only one of our graduates returned to prison so our recidivism is less than 1% while the average in the State of Florida is over 25%. We also have active study centers in Chile and Ecuador. In the USA, there are **five** full-time and **three** part-time workers. **Four** chaplains and over **20** inmates teach in our program.