

The Date
The first Church of God in Venezuela
Was Organized

By James M. Beaty
July 4, 2010

This is to clarify a point in history. The plaque at the Seminary that lists the dates when the Church of God entered different countries has "Venezuela...1966." This was taken from Conn (see Tribute Edition, 2008), p. 544. Brother Conn must have got it from the 1966 Book of Minutes, which was the first mention of Venezuela in the Minutes; because it was the first assembly after the church was organized there.

The Lord gave me the opportunity to organize the first church in Venezuela. The background is this. Several of our ministers from Puerto Rico had gone there and preached. Among those were Roberto Rodríguez and Antonio Rivera, both unmarried at the time. When they visited in Columbia, they told me that there was a small church in Calabozo that wanted to come into the Church of God. On the basis of that I went and visited the group in December of 1964 and on December 13, 1964, I set the church in order. I reported this in my ministerial report of that month, which was mailed in January of 1965. Attached is a copy of that report. Under "Remarks" I wrote: "This is the first church organized in Venezuela."

I do not remember what was on my mind when I made the report but I was a little careless. I mistakenly wrote that the church was organized on December 13, 1963. But note the following:

1. The Report was received in Cleveland and stamped Jan 25, 1965. So that establishes the fact that it is the December 1964 report.
2. At the top of the report I had put the date of Dec. 1965, before I realized that

December was the month before in 1964. So I changed the 65 to 64.

3. Then when I got down to put the date that the Church in Calabozo was organized, because of that confusion in my head I put (the year before that) 1963.

4. But not only is the report stamped as received on January 25, 1965 (and therefore for December 1964), but that is the place it occupies in the microfilm series and my passport verifies the same.

In the Minutes of 1966 there was one church, one mission and twenty members. At that time Bolivia and Venezuela were listed as operating "Under the Supervision of the Superintendent." In 1968 Juan Ramon Jiménez, the elderly pastor at Calabozo, when I organized it, is listed in the Minutes as "Representative" and as exhorter for the first time. But there was still one church, one mission, and one minister, although the members had increased from twenty to thirty.

It sounds like that this was one more confused Ph.D. Well, we all get confused from time to time. But I thought that it would be well to set the record straight.

Copy of Ministerial Report Attached

James M. Beaty
July 4, 2010

JAN (P)

ORIGINAL—Send this to General Headquarters, Cleveland Tennessee

File No.

0 7887

MINISTER'S REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING

Dec

19

Places revivals conducted

Peru - Venezuela - Colombia

Pastoral visits

No. converted

5

No. baptized in water

No. sermons preached

8

No. sanctified

No. baptized with Holy Ghost

No. added to the church

New

9

Transferred

OFFICE USE ONLY

Amount sent for Insurance

Life:

15.90

Accident:

New churches organized This month

1

Date organized

Dec. 13, 1963

Calabozo, Venezuela

Name of church

Pastoring

☐

Evangelizing

☐

Official position

☒

Disabled

☐

Retired

☐

Offerings received from all sources

Amt. of tithes received from local churches

300 00

Recd. for Expenses

Total receipts

300 00

Expenses in ministry

Total net receipts

300 00

Tithes of net offerings

Balance

27.00

300 02

Aged Ministers (Pay 1% of tithes and offerings)

Tithes paid from earnings or income outside of ministry in local treasury

Where is your membership?

Meridian St. Nashville Tenn.

Remarks

This is the first church organized in Venezuela

Name of pastor

Jan 25 1965

Name

James M. Beatty

Address

Casilla 3022, Santiago, Chile

Phone No.

31 3573

can send Report Book