

An Update from Jim & Ester Mazurek – Assemblies of God Missionaries  
Serving the **Latin American Advanced School of Theology (LAAST)** Aug./Sep, 2007

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## **“Endure hardship... fulfill your ministry.”**

(2 Tim. 4:5 NASB)

**It's a miracle. There is just no other way to explain it.**

Last year, when Jim taught at the LAAST seminar in Buenos Aires, one of his outstanding students was Pastor Oscar Castells, from San Nicolás, Argentina. Soon after the seminar, we received word that he had cancer. From August, 2006, through June, 2007 Pastor Oscar and his family and congregation fought an intense battle of faith and prayer against the disease.

The surgeons removed 50% of his stomach and 80% of his esophagus, relocating his stomach up high in his chest.

This past July, it was such a surprise and blessing to see Pastor Oscar enrolling for his fourth and final LAAST seminar. Incredibly, he arrived with all his due research work completed, performed admirably during the four-week seminar, and graduated with his Bachelor's Degree in Theology. Not only that; the doctors have just declared him cancer-free! What a celebration for his family and congregation!

This time Jim taught his Advanced Hermeneutics course, and had the students do an exegesis of 2 Timothy 4:1-5. Pastor Oscar did an excellent job. The text that spoke to him most was verse five. *“But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”* In his concluding remarks, he wrote:

***“In the midst of the situation I am in, with many physical impossibilities, fatigue, and inability to concentrate on my duties, I have often asked myself, ‘What am I doing?’ Paul’s advice to Timothy speaks well to me. I must endure hardships, even when they are so adverse. When my limitations affect my work in the ministry, God speaks to me and tells me He is with me. This text tells me that despite my limitations, I must be well prepared in the Word, to use it with efficiency. Just like Timothy, I am encouraged and strengthened to go forward. Thank God that He challenged me to complete my studies at the Latin American Advanced School of Theology.”***

Pastor Oscar Castells exemplifies the LAAST spirit we seek to develop in every Latin American minister – a desire to study and learn all that God has to equip them for even better ministerial service. Your gifts and prayers help men and women like Pastor Oscar reach this goal. Thank you so very much.

**The LAAST way. Affordable, on-site advanced ministerial training in a context of close human relationships. It's working for over 2,000 ministers across Latin America. It needs your help to keep on working.**

You can help more Latin American ministers enjoy the benefits of LAAST Seminars by sending a special offering to:

**Jim & Ester Mazurek, c/o Assemblies of God World Missions, Account 2388742 - Class 72, 1445 Boonville Ave, Springfield, MO 65802 USA.**