

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH
PASTOR BILL WILBUR GAMBOA, PANAMA
PTY 2299 Box 025207 Miami, Fl 33102 www.gamboaunion.com

JULY 2017 A TIME FOR CHANGE After nearly forty years of weekly meetings at the Renacer prison near Gamboa (formerly the Canal Zone Penitentiary) I have found that it is a time for a change. Another way to say it is “a change of season.”

Several factors have affected me to make a change about this ministry that I have enjoyed all these years. I have seen God do some amazing things especially during JUST CAUSE...the invasion by the U. S. Military in 1989. The divine encounters and changed lives is only God! (You can read this in my book, FINDING FREEDOM IN PANAMA.)

The key factor happened in this past January. While on my weekly visit, Ricardo (my translator and assistant for many years) and I were suddenly told that we cannot enter until a new permission form was provided. A new director had come. He was totally against Christian ministries and told us the permission form must be signed by the new Minister of Correction in Panama City. This would only be good for one year and then we would have to do it again. After many letters and personal visits, the Minister of Correction was conveniently unavailable and unable to sign the letter without a personal visit. So even if we get one now, it would only be good until December. Then we would have to start the process over again.

The second factor was that even after over a year of medical and physical therapy to recover from my disease in March 2016, I continually need my five weekly workouts. This takes time and thus I don't have the opportunity for the regular weekly trips to the prison.

As the months have gone I have missed all these meetings, I have lost contact with the men. I began to ask God “Is this my time?” “Is this a new season for me?” Others began to ask me the same question and encouraged me to make my health a priority.

Then there was another change that encouraged me. A group of key young adults asked me to help them every other Saturday evening at the church. They asked be to act as a leader and mentor for them. They mainly wanted to have a prayer meeting seeking the heart of God for missions and just knowing God. This is exciting!

So I have begun to focus on the young adults instead of the prison. I miss the prisoners and had always wondered how I would ever end that ministry. But now it seems that God led me to make changes and seek His way during this season of my life.

Gifts for tax deduction can be made out to GAMBOA UNION MINISTRIES and sent to:
Sydney Corbett; 231 SE 45th Terrace; Ocala, Fl 34471- 3224 In His strength alone, Bill