

GAMBOA UNION CHURCH
PASTOR BILL WILBUR GAMBOA, PANAMA
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NOVEMBER 2014 Pastor, meet the Governor! I was on my way to the chapel in the prison for my regular Thursday meeting, when suddenly I was aware of several important looking people coming behind me. I recognized the director's body guard, an official and a few aids. I also had a team of ten students from Youth With A Mission from Kona, HI.

It was at that point that the body guard (who is also a fine Christian friend of mine) asked me to meet the Governor of Panama.” I didn't even know that we had a Governor.

I found out later that each of the ten provinces in the country of Panama have a governor. So there is a president of the country of Panama (and the capital is in Panama City), and there is a mayor of Panama City and there is a governor for the province of Panama. So, it was the governor who has come to visit this prison today.

He was well dressed and had five aids with him. Ten of the prisoners were present for the meeting along with the ten YWAM students. I presented my book to him and a copy of the Jesus Film which is in multiple languages. Then he motioned that he would like to speak to all of us. Ricardo George, who translates for our church, translated so the YWAM students could find out what he was saying. I thought he was just going to make a political or social note.

He began thanking us for the opportunity to meet us and for the unexpected gift of the book and film. Then he shared about his life and how he become the governor. He told about his wife and seven children and how he had gotten so involved in his life and business that he was loosing his family and his purpose in life.

“Jesus Christ is the One who changed my life,” the governor proclaimed. Then after he looked at the prisoners, he told them the importance of living for Christ and making good decisions. “Wherever I go and have the opportunity, I tell people the gospel and my testimony.”

All the people applauded and prayed for the governor. The YWAM team leader told the governor about their ministry here in Panama and I led us all singing a Spanish praise song. Then he got one of his aids to take photos with the YWAM team, another with the prisoners.

Then he was gone... we had shared with him, his staff and all those present, that this was a definite “God Thing.” The timing of this event was not planned at all, but it fell into place to glorify the Lord. Thank you for your part in supporting and praying for us.

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