

Ministers
David Powell
Josh Cook

Youth Minister
Adam Carlucci

Missions Minister
John McCadams

Hispanic Minister
Rafael Barrantes



Elders
David Beach
Doug Hays
Randy Hysmith
Dwight Jones
Gary Martin
Paul Norris
Allen Verell

NORTH JACKSON CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Our brother Rafael Barrantes recently made the elders aware that he has been presented with an opportunity to fulfill a longstanding dream of establishing a preacher training school in the country of Costa Rica.

Brother Howell Ferguson, who works with World Bible Institute, was recently in Costa Rica at the same time that Rafael was there with the group from North Jackson that was on a mission trip. Howell was investigating the possibility of World Bible Institute opening a preacher training school in Costa Rica. Upon learning that they had this goal in common, they began to discuss the possibilities of working together, and subsequently shared their idea with the elders.

With the elders' blessing, plans are now moving ahead for Rafael and World Bible Institute to partner in this effort. Rafael will be devoting his time to organizing the Costa Rica School of Preaching beginning in July of this year, with his goal of opening the school in January, 2018. When the school opens, Rafael and Kattia will be in Costa Rica the majority of the year with occasional visits to the United States to raise support and to report on the work to supporting congregations. The elders are considering providing a portion of the support for the operation of the Costa Rica School of Preaching as a part of this congregation's mission outreach.

Rafael has directed the Hispanic ministry here at North Jackson for almost twelve years. He has worked diligently to share the gospel with the Hispanic community in Jackson as well as in surrounding communities in West Tennessee. He has used the teaching of the English language as a tool to teach the gospel. During the time that Rafael has served as a minister of this congregation, ninety-three souls were baptized into Christ. Rafael established the annual English-Spanish Bible Conference which in six years has grown to be a nationally recognized conference. Rafael and his family have been active in mission trips to Peru, Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica. His talent of being able to translate English and Spanish has been crucial in making it possible for the elders to effectively visit and communicate with our missionaries and the congregations they serve.

Rafael, Kattia, and their family are loved and appreciated by this congregation, not only because of the work they have accomplished here, but also by the example they have set as a loving Christian family devoted to serving the cause of Christ. The elders cannot state strongly enough the love, respect, and admiration we have for them. They will continue to be in our prayers as they take this next step toward reaching their goals in serving the Lord.

Given this development, in July the elders will begin investigating alternative ways to provide worship, service, and fellowship opportunities for members of the Hispanic congregation as we transition from North Jackson's Hispanic ministry to other outreach programs. We pray God's blessings on Rafael and Kattia as they begin their work in Costa Rica.

Elders
North Jackson church of Christ