

AVANZA LÍDER

Ministerial Report – August 2026



Introduction

August was an especially meaningful and productive month for Avanza Líder. Through the RE Retreat for ministers and their wives in Honduras, continued work with the Las Lomas del Guijarro Church of Christ in Tegucigalpa, and participation in the IV Congress of Baxter Graduates in the Dominican Republic, we had opportunities to encourage, renew, and strengthen Christian leaders in different settings.

One common thread connected all these efforts: healthy churches require healthy leaders. Our goal is not simply to organize events or provide training, but to invest deeply in people who are serving the Kingdom—helping them renew their spiritual lives, strengthen their families, develop healthier leadership, and become better equipped for long-term ministry, I believe in processes more than events.

RE Retreat – Honduras

August 14–15, 2026



One of the most significant events of this ministry season was the RE Retreat, held in Honduras for preachers, ministry leaders, and their wives. Approximately 60 ministers and spouses participated in this special time of spiritual renewal, reflection, fellowship, and encouragement.

The idea behind RE was born from something we have observed repeatedly in our work with ministers throughout Latin America: those who spend their lives caring for others often have very few opportunities for someone to care for them.

Ministry can slowly become exhausting. Preachers and their wives carry the spiritual and emotional needs of congregations, family pressures, financial concerns, leadership conflicts, expectations from church members, and the constant responsibility of being available to others. Over time, even faithful and committed servants can become physically, emotionally, relationally, and spiritually depleted.



The purpose of RE was therefore not primarily to teach ministers how to do more ministry, but to create a safe environment where they could stop, listen, reflect, reconnect with God, and rediscover the health of their own souls.

The retreat was built around the concept of **“RE” —Reconnecting (with God), Reaffirming (the call), Recalibrating (Ministry).**

Throughout the retreat, participants were challenged to examine important questions: Who am I beyond my ministry? What masks have I learned to wear? Is my ministry still moving in the direction God intended? Have the demands of ministry replaced intimacy with God? What needs to be recalibrated in my marriage, spiritual life, leadership, and personal priorities?

Projected Impact

We believe the deepest results of a retreat like RE will not necessarily be visible immediately. The greatest impact may appear in the months and years ahead.

Our hope is that participants returned home with a renewed awareness of God's presence and calling, healthier boundaries between ministry and family, greater emotional and spiritual self-awareness, and practical commitments to care for their souls while continuing to serve others.

We also hope the retreat helped normalize an important conversation among ministers: spiritual exhaustion should not have to become a crisis before we address it.

Preventing burnout, strengthening the way couples see ministry, creating honest friendships among ministers, and developing healthy spiritual rhythms can help leaders remain faithful and effective for many more years.

For this reason, we see RE not simply as an event, but potentially as an important component of Avanza Líder's continuing work with ministers throughout Latin America.

Las Lomas del Guijarro – Tegucigalpa

During this period, I also continued our involvement with the Las Lomas del Guijarro Church of Christ in Tegucigalpa, where we are making encouraging progress toward developing a plan to help the congregation relaunch and revitalize its ministry.

Las Lomas has a significant history and a strategically located property with considerable potential. Our conversations have increasingly focused not merely on repairing a building, but on helping rebuild a ministry.

We continue exploring ways to strengthen leadership, discipleship, children's ministry, outreach, and congregational life while helping the church develop a clearer vision for its future.



One of the exciting possibilities is to bring together churches and Christians who support Avanza Líder to participate directly in this revitalization effort. Future mission teams could help renovate classrooms and other areas of the property while simultaneously helping the congregation strengthen its Sunday school and children's ministries.

The goal is much greater than improving facilities. We want renewed facilities to become tools for renewed ministry.

Our hope is that Las Lomas can once again become a healthy and active congregation and, eventually, a place from which leadership development, discipleship, children's ministry, community outreach, and other Kingdom initiatives can influence Tegucigalpa and beyond.

There is still considerable work ahead, but the progress and conversations during this visit were encouraging.

IV Congress of Baxter Graduates – Dominican Republic

August 20–23, 2026

Shortly after returning from the RE Retreat, I traveled to the Dominican Republic to participate in the IV Congress of Baxter Graduates, held August 20–23.

The gathering was an enormous success and brought together ministers and Christian leaders for several days of fellowship, teaching, worship, encouragement, and renewed commitment to Kingdom service.

I was deeply honored to serve as one of the main speakers for the three-day gathering. This provided another important opportunity for Avanza Líder to contribute to the development and encouragement of ministers beyond Honduras and to continue strengthening relationships with leaders serving throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.



Events like this remind us of the tremendous potential that exists when Christian leaders move beyond isolation and intentionally learn from, encourage, and strengthen one another.

One of Avanza Líder's convictions continues to be that we are stronger when leaders and congregations work together for the Kingdom rather than functioning in isolation.

Visit to Cotuí DR

While in the Dominican Republic, I also had the special opportunity to travel to Cotuí and spend time with my longtime friend and former classmate, Edilio de los Santos.



This visit was personally meaningful because of the friendship and history we share, but it also provided another opportunity for ministry.



During my time in Cotuí, I was invited to preach in two congregations. It was encouraging to worship with our brothers and sisters there, meet local Christians, and see firsthand the work being done in that part of the Dominican Republic.

Moments like these reinforce the importance of relationships in ministry. Programs and events are valuable, but much of Kingdom work continues to grow through friendships, trust, shared experiences, and years of walking alongside other servants of God.

Looking Forward

August represented much of what Avanza Líder is seeking to accomplish.

At the RE Retreat, we invested in the spiritual and relational health of ministers and their wives. At Las Lomas, we continued working toward the revitalization of a local congregation and the development of a vision for its future. At the Baxter Graduates Congress, we invested in a broader network of ministers and Christian leaders. And in Cotuí, ministry happened through friendship, preaching, fellowship, and the strengthening of local congregations.

These experiences reinforce an important conviction behind Avanza Líder: Healthy leaders help build healthy churches, and healthy churches can influence entire communities for the Kingdom of God.

We are deeply grateful to the congregations, individuals, board members, donors, and ministry partners who make this work possible. Your prayers, encouragement, generosity, and confidence in this ministry allow us to continue walking alongside Christian leaders and congregations throughout Latin America.

There is much still to be done, but we are encouraged by what God is doing and excited about the opportunities ahead.

Thank you for partnering with Avanza Líder as we continue developing leaders, strengthening churches, and advancing the Kingdom throughout Latin America.

Javier León

Avanza Líder