



ST. MICHAEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Welcoming • Faithful • Diverse

CONTENTS:

4

From the North Texas Catholic Bishop Olson, Parishioners Celebrate Deacon Harry Heinz' 40 Years in Ministry
By MATTHEW SMITH

5

Tomado de North Texas Catholic Obispo Olson y feligreses celebran 40 Años de Ministerio del Diácono Harry Heinz
Por MATTHEW SMITH

6

We Can Make This Lent Our Best Yet! Spiritually Preparing for Easter in Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving

7

¡Podemos Hacer de Esta Cuaresma la Mejor! Preparándonos Espiritualmente para la Cuaresma en Oración, Ayuno y Limosna

WELCOME FR. VJ AND FAREWELL FR. BI!

NEW PASTOR FR. VIJAY RAJU MAREEDU, SAC, TAKES THE REINS AT ST. MICHAEL FOLLOWING THE DEPARTURE OF FR. BALAJI BOYALLA

Editor's note: The following includes excerpts from articles published by the North Texas Catholic, the online news magazine of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Permission to reprint.

After 15 years in the Diocese of Fort Worth, including the past five as pastor at St. Michael, Fr. Balaji Boyalla, SAC, left our parish at the end of December to assume the role of Regional Rector of the Gloria Dei Region of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, also known as Pallottine priests, in his home nation of India.

Taking over as pastor at St. Michael on Feb. 1, Fr. Vijay Raju Mareedu, SAC, came to the diocese in 2018 and most recently served as pastor of a four-parish cluster — St. Rita Parish in Ranger, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Parish in Cisco, St. Francis Xavier Parish in Eastland, and St. John Parish in Strawn.

The youngest of three, Fr. Vijay grew up in Andhra Pradesh, India. His father,



BIENVENIDO PADRE VJ Y HASTA LUEGO PADRE BI!

UN NUEVO PASTOR, EL PADRE VIJAY RAJU MAREEDU, SAC, SE HACE CARGO DE ST. MICHAEL ANTE LA PARTIDA DEL PADRE BALAJI BOYALLA

Nota del editor: Lo siguiente incluye extractos de artículos publicados por North Texas Catholic, la revista de noticias en línea de la Diócesis de Fort Worth. Permiso para reimprimir.

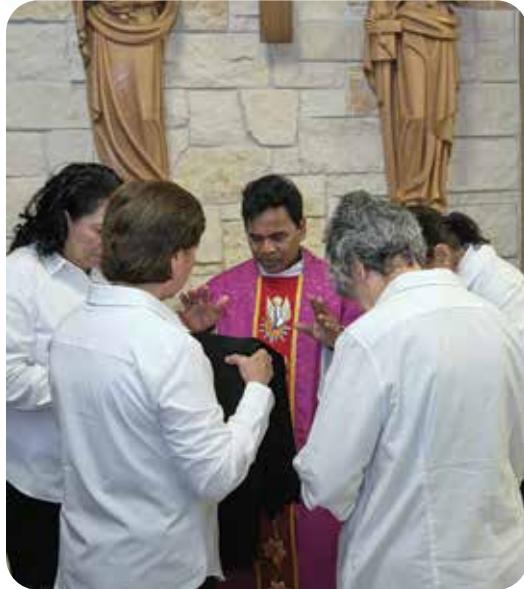
Lugo de 15 años en la Diócesis de Fort Worth, incluyendo cinco como pastor en St. Michael, el Padre Balaji Boyalla, SAC, dejó nuestra parroquia a fines de diciembre para convertirse en Rector Regional de la región Gloria Dei de la Sociedad para el Apostolado Católico, conocida como los Padres Palotinos, en su país natal India.

Asumiendo como pastor en St. Michael 1 de febrero el Padre Vijay Raju Mareedu, SAC, vino a la diócesis en 2018 y recientemente fue párroco del grupo de parroquias de Santa Rita en Ranger, Nuestra Señora del Santo Rosario en Cisco, San Francisco Xavier en Eastland, y San Juan en Strawn.

El menor de tres hermanos, el Padre Vijay se crio en Andhra Pradesh, India.

continued on page 2

continúa en la página 3



WELCOME FR. VJ AND FAREWELL FR. B!

continued from front cover

whom he called a "simple, God-fearing man," worked as an electrician at a Montfort school, which allowed his children to have a Catholic education. His father told him, "I will not give you gold, I will not give you land, but education is the most important thing."

Fr. VJ, as he's fondly called, admitted to being more interested in playing basketball and cricket than in his studies. As a tenth-grade student, he saw crowds of people crying after the local bishop's death and it made a big impression. He thought, "People are crying because he has done something good; there is something good in doing for the other."

During his novitiate, he began spending 30 minutes a day in front of the Blessed Sacrament, a habit he continues. "You may not speak, but He will speak to you."

He was ordained in April 2015, and the young priest began his service working in a school and as an associate pastor. When Fr. VJ came to the diocese in 2018, he contacted every family registered in his four parishes and met with them, which took about a year.

"Giving time is the best thing I can give," Fr. VJ says.

For Fr. Balaji Boyalla, affectionately known as "Fr. B," he says his years in North Texas helped him prepare for his new role. He has "grown into a mature priest" and learned qualities of leadership from former Bishop Kevin

Vann, Bishop Olson, and his priest mentors.

He especially appreciates the trust Bishop Olson placed in him by appointing him dean of the 11 parishes in the Southwest Deanery and by naming him pastor of St. Michael.

Fr. VJ has experienced Fr. Boyalla's leadership firsthand during his previous assignment as the pastor of four parishes. When Fr. VJ, also from the Gloria Dei Region, arrived in the diocese in 2018, Fr. Boyalla served as a guide to navigate the culture shock of 9,000 miles.

Fr. VJ refers to Fr. B as "the small dynamite" who was a role model on how to build community, plus a caring friend — qualities that will make him a good regional leader.

"He reaches each individual, understands each individual, and gives time to the other," Fr. VJ says. "He sees the good in each person and brings out their talents."

On December 10-11, parishioners at St. Michael shared their well wishes with Fr. Boyalla as he celebrated all the weekend Masses. The Pallottine priests gathered at St. John in Strawn on December 17 to celebrate Mass with their brother priest before he departed for India.

Fr. Boyalla became a U.S. citizen in 2019, and he hopes to return to the Diocese of Fort Worth when his term (which could be extended an additional three years) ends.

"I hope, if it is God's will, I would like to come back

continued on back cover



¡BIENVENIDO PADRE VJ Y HASTA LUEGO PADRE B!

continuó desde la portada

Su padre, a quien describe como "un hombre sencillo con gran amor a Dios," trabajaba como electricista en un colegio Montfort, lo que permitió que sus hijos recibieran una educación Católica. Su padre le dijo, "No les daré oro, no les daré tierras, pero la educación es lo más importante."

Padre VJ, como le llaman sus amigos, confiesa que estaba más interesado en jugar baloncesto y cricket que en sus estudios. Como estudiante de décimo grado. Vio multitudes llorando cuando murió el obispo local, lo que le impresionó. Pensó, "La gente llora porque el ha hecho bien, hay algo bueno en esforzarse por otros."

Durante su noviciado, comenzó a pasar 30 minutos diarios frente al Santísimo Sacramento, hábito que mantiene. "Uno no tiene que hablar, Él nos habla."

Se Ordenó en abril de 2015, y como sacerdote joven comenzó trabajando en una escuela y como pastor asociado. Cuando el Padre VJ llegó a la diócesis en 2018, se comunicó con cada familia en sus cuatro parroquias y se reunió con ellas, lo que tomó cerca de un año.

"Dedicar tiempo es lo mejor que puedo dar," dice Padre VJ.

Para el Padre Balaji Boyalla, a quien llamamos "Padre B," nos dice que su tiempo en el norte de Texas ayudó a prepararle para sus nuevas funciones, "Crecí a ser un

sacerdote maduro" y aprendió liderato del Obispo Kevin Vann, Obispo Olson y sus mentores sacerdotales.

Agradece especialmente la confianza que el Obispo Olson mostró nombrándole decano de las 11 parroquias en el decanato del Suroeste y pastor en St. Michael.

El Padre VJ experimentó el liderato del Padre Boyalla cuando dirigía las cuatro parroquias. Cuando el Padre VJ, también de la Región Gloria Dei, llegó a la diócesis en 2018 el Padre Boyalla le sirvió de guía para manejar el choque cultural de 9,000 millas.

Padre VJ dice que Padre B es "la pequeña dinamita" que sirvió de modelo para crear comunidad y un cariñoso amigo – talentos que le harán un buen líder regional.

"Llega a cada persona, le entiende, da tiempo al otro," dice Padre VJ. "Ve lo bueno de cada uno y promueve sus talentos."

El 10 y 11 de diciembre, los feligreses de St. Michael extendieron sus mejores deseos al Padre Boyalla mientras celebraba Misa. Los Padre Palotinos se reunieron en San Juan en Strawn el 17 de diciembre para celebrar la Misa con su hermano antes que partiera hacia India.

El Padre Boyalla recibió la ciudadanía americana en 2019, y espera regresar a la Diócesis de Fort Worth al fin de su encomienda (que puede ser extendida por tres años).

continúa en la contraportada



FROM THE NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC

BISHOP OLSON, PARISHIONERS CELEBRATE DEACON HARRY HEINZ' 40 YEARS IN MINISTRY

BY MATTHEW SMITH

During a November 5 St. Michael Parish Mass celebrating Deacon Harry Heinz' service, Father Balaji Boyalla, SAC, jokingly announced Deacon Heinz's years with the Bedford parish as 100. The actual number falls a bit short of the century mark at a still impressive 40 years, making Deacon Heinz the Diocese of Fort Worth's longest serving active deacon.

Bishop Michael Olson, who concelebrated the Mass, praised the role of deacons in general and Deacon Heinz in particular. "I particularly give thanks for the ministry and friendship of Deacon Harry Heinz," Bishop Olson said. "Deacon Harry has brought a gift - especially in perseverance of service."

The prelate characterized the diaconate as a bridge ministry between laity and clergy. "So that we don't forget or overlook those who would otherwise fall through the cracks," Bishop Olson said. "Deacon Harry has exemplified that particular ministry, which is different from that of a priest, and Harry is a true deacon."

Bishop Olson spoke of the "immeasurable" weddings, Baptisms, homilies, and outreach efforts performed by Deacon Heinz.

Deacon Heinz' tenure as parishioner and as a deacon stretches back to Father Michael Irwin, St. Michael's second pastor, and a time before the church's current building existed. "We were meeting at Harwood Junior High School while this church building was under construction," Deacon Heinz said. "On St. Michael's Feast Day in 1979 they dedicated this building."

For Fr. Boyalla, who arrived at the parish a little over four years ago, Deacon Heinz' experience and wisdom has meant much. "Everyone knows Deacon Harry," Fr. Boyalla said. "He's a friend, a teacher, and an inspiration to us all."

A New Jersey native, Deacon Heinz moved to Texas in 1979 - two years after St. Michael was established - having been transferred by his job at American Airlines and went on to become a deacon in 1982.

The diaconate was not part of his plan. "I didn't want to go into the diaconate program," Heinz said. "I fought it." His grandfather was among the founders of the New Jersey parish Deacon Heinz grew up in and in which his father served as an usher for years. Deacon Heinz also became involved with his hometown church, but not as a deacon.

"A friend of mine was being ordained as a deacon and invited me to one of his classes, which was interesting, so I went back a second time," Deacon Heinz said.

The monsignor running the classes several times suggested that Deacon Heinz should consider becoming a deacon, only to be turned down repeatedly.

"Finally, I told him to just talk to my wife," Deacon Heinz said. "She told him, 'If he wants to go, go ahead.' So, I went into the program."

The move to Texas interrupted Deacon Heinz' studies about a year into his program. Fortunately, after Fr. Irwin learned that Deacon Heinz had started the process in New Jersey, he quickly convinced Deacon Heinz to enter the formation program here. Or not so quickly. None of the dates available worked out until Deacon Heinz finally signed on for a program in Longview.

"He had a full-time job, discerning, his training, and raising our kids," said Millie Heinz, Deacon Heinz's wife of 58 years. "A lot of juggling. But it all worked out and I think it was meant to. You make it work out."

Article originally appeared in the Nov. 14, 2022, online edition of the North Texas Catholic, <https://northtexascatholic.org/news/bishop-olson-parishioners-celebrate-deacon-harry-heinz-40-years-in-ministry>. Written by Matthew Smith. Permission to reprint.



Deacon Heinz and Bishop Michael Olson

TOMADO DE NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC

OBISPO OLSON Y FELIGRESES CELEBRAN 40 AÑOS DE MINISTERIO DEL DIACONO HARRY HEINZ

POR MATTHEW SMITH

Durante una Misa el 5 de noviembre del parroquia St. Michael celebra el servicio del diácono Harry Heinz, el Padre Balaji Boyalla, SAC, bromeó que el Diácono Heinz había servido a la parroquia por 100 años. En realidad, son algo menos de los 40 años maravillosos, convirtiendo al Diácono Heinz en el de más años en servicio.

El Obispo Michael Olson, quien concelebró la Misa, alabó la función de los diáconos y particularmente al Diácono Heinz. "Quiero particularmente agradecer el ministerio y amistad del Diácono Harry Heinz," dijo el Obispo Olson. "El Diácono Harry tiene un don especial -su servicio perseverante."

El prelado caracterizó el diaconado como un puente entre los ministerios de laico y clero. "Así no olvidamos ni pasamos por alto a quien pudiesen escaparse de otra forma," dijo el Obispo Olson. "El Diácono Harry es ejemplo de ese misterio, diferente del sacerdocio, y Harry es un gran diácono."

El Obispo Olson mencionó los "incontables" bodas, bautizos, homilías, y esfuerzos especiales realizados por el Diácono Harry.

Para el Padre Boyalla, quien llegó a la parroquia hace cuatro años, la experiencia y sabiduría del Diácono Heinz ha sido de gran ayuda. "Todo el mundo conoce al Diácono Harry," dice el Padre Boyalla. "Es un amigo, maestro, e inspiración para todos."

Nativo de New Jersey, el Diácono Heinz se mudó a Texas en 1979 – dos años después que se fundó St. Michael – transferido por su patrón "American Airlines" y se ordenó diácono en 1982.

El diaconado no estaba en sus planes. "Yo no quería entrar al diaconado," nos dice, "Luchaba." Su abuelo había sido fundador de la parroquia en que se crio en New Jersey y su padre fue acomodador por años. El Diácono Heinz también participaba en su parroquia, pero no como diácono.

"Un amigo se ordenaba como diácono y me invitó a una clase, que fue interesante, así que regresé,"



Padre. B y el Obispo Olson con el Diácono Heinz

dice el Diácono Harry.

El monseñor a cargo de las clases varias veces sugirió que el Diácono Heinz debía considerar entrar al diaconado, para que rehusara varias veces.

"Finalmente, le dije que hablara con mi esposa," dice el Diácono Harry. "Ella le dijo, 'Si él quiere hacerlo, adelante.' Así entré al programa."

Al mudarse a Texas se interrumpieron sus estudios en el primer año. Afortunadamente, cuando el Padre Irwin supo que el Diácono Heinz había comenzado en New Jersey, rápidamente le convenció de entrar al programa aquí. Pero ninguna de las fechas acomodaba, hasta que el Diácono Harry se inscribió en Longview.

"Trabajaba a tiempo completo, discernía, su capacitación y criaba a nuestros hijos," dice Millie Heinz, su esposa por 58 años. "Mucho balance, pero lo logró todo. Creo que era su destino. Haces lo necesario."

Artículo originalmente publicado el 14 de noviembre de 2022 en la edición electrónica de North Texas Catholic, <https://northtexascatholic.org/news/bishop-olson-parishioners-celebrate-deacon-harry-heinz-40-years-in-ministry>. Escrito por Matthew Smith. Permiso para reimprimir.



WE CAN MAKE THIS LENT OUR BEST YET! SPIRITUALLY PREPARING FOR EASTER IN PRAYER, FASTING AND ALMSGIVING

When we think of Lent, we probably think of not eating meat on Fridays and giving up chocolate. As we approach Ash Wednesday on February 22, let's consider how we might use Lent to evaluate our spiritual lives.

Here at St. Michael, we have numerous opportunities to grow in faith this Lent. All are encouraged to pray a traditional Lenten prayer, the Stations of the Cross, every Friday with a soup meal preceding. And as we approach Holy Week, there will be extra opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Fr. Joseph Pudota, our previous Director of Liturgy, and Fr. Jesuraj, our new Director of Liturgy, ask that we consider attending the Triduum Masses — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday. We asked Father Joseph to share his thoughts with

the St. Michael parishioners about Lent, before he leaves for his new assignment.

"Journey together through this as a parish family," he says. "It is good for us to relive the Paschal Mysteries — the Passion, death and Resurrection. To walk with Jesus through these is important for all of us."

Fr. Joseph recommends that we find something from which we can fast — whether it's food, entertainment, negativity or something else. "When we fast, we learn what it means to be hungry," he says. "We can share in the suffering of Christ. I want to show the same love for Him that He showed for me."

However, we shouldn't only give up chocolates or dessert. We must continue to enter more deeply into our Lenten discernment and sacrifice.

"Lent is a journey," he says. "It's a time to grow closer to the Lord."

Most of us are busy people, and we may look for other ways to occupy our time. During Lent, we must be intentional of finding ways to journey with the Lord.

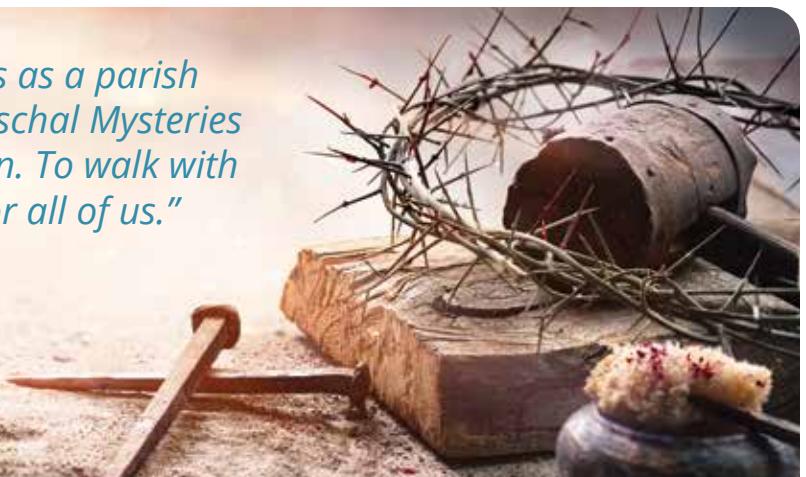
"How do we rediscover our relationship with God?" Fr. Joseph says. "It is not just about sacrifices. It is discerning where our hearts are directed. It is a spiritual journey."

Fr. Joseph also recommends we make more time for prayer. We should ask God if we are living out His will for us. We should also be more charitable to others and include them in our prayers.

"Share what you have with your neighbor in need," he says. "Find people to visit or share financial or material wealth. When we do this, we make God truly present."

"Let us journey together through this as a parish family. It is good for us to relive the Paschal Mysteries — the Passion, death, and Resurrection. To walk with Jesus through these is important for all of us."

— Fr. Joseph Pudota



For more information about upcoming Lenten opportunities at our parish, visit www.smccchurch.org/lent.

¡PODEMOS HACER DE ESTA CUARESMA LA MEJOR!

PREPARÁNDONOS ESPIRITUALMENTE PARA LA CUARESMA EN ORACIÓN, AYUNO Y LIMOSNA

Al pensar en la Cuaresma, probablemente pensamos no comer carne los viernes y dejar el chocolate. Al acercarse el Miércoles de Ceniza — 22 de febrero — consideremos como emplear la Cuaresma para examinar nuestra vida espiritual.

En St. Michael, tenemos múltiples oportunidades de crecimiento esta Cuaresma. Se nos alienta a rezar una oración cuaresmal tradicional, participar en el Vía Crucis y las cenas con sopa los viernes. Al acercarse la Semana Santa, habrá más oportunidades para el Sacramento de Reconciliación.

El Padre Joseph Pudota, nuestro anterior Director de Liturgia, y el Padre Jesuraj, nuestro nuevo Director de Liturgia, piden que consideremos asistir a las Misa del Triduo — Jueves Santo, Viernes Santo, y Sábado de Gloria o Domingo de Pascua. Pedimos al Padre Joseph sus pensamientos para los feligreses de St. Michael sobre la Cuaresma al marchar a su nuevo destino.

"Recorran juntos como parroquia este trayecto," nos dice. "Es bueno revivir los Misterios Pascuales – Pasión, muerte y Resurrección. Caminarlos con Jesús es importante para todos."

El Padre Joseph nos recomienda encontrar algo que ayunar – sea comida, diversiones, negatividad, u otra cosa. "Al ayunar, aprendemos lo que es sufrir hambre," dice. "Compartimos el sufrimiento de Cristo. Quiero vivir por Él un amor, como Él vivió por mí."

Sin embargo, no basta dejar el postre o chocolate. Debemos adentrarnos a nuestro discernimiento o sacrificio cuaresmal.

"La Cuaresma es un trayecto," dice. "Es tiempo de acercarnos a Dios."

Muchos estamos ocupados o buscamos otras maneras de ocupar nuestro tiempo. Durante la Cuaresma, debemos intencionalmente hallar formas de caminar con el Señor.

"¿Cómo redescubrir nuestra relación con Dios?" dice Padre Joseph. "No es sólo sacrificios. Es considerar a dónde se dirige nuestro corazón. Es un viaje espiritual."

El Padre Joseph recomienda sacar tiempo para la oración. Debemos preguntar a Dios si estamos viviendo Su voluntad. Debemos ser caritativos con los demás e incluirles en nuestras oraciones.

"Compartan cuánto tienen con el hermano

necesitado," nos dice. "Busque a quien visitar, o compartir recursos económicos o materiales. Al hacerlo hacemos a Dios presente."



"Recorran juntos como parroquia este trayecto. Es bueno revivir los Misterios Pascuales – Pasión, muerte y Resurrección. Caminarlos con Jesús es importante para todos."

— Padre Joseph Pudota

Para más información sobre oportunidades cuaresmales visite:
www.smcchurch.org/lent.



3713 Harwood Road
Bedford, TX 76021-4097
817.283.8746
www.smcchurch.org

LITURGY SCHEDULE

MASS TIMES

Saturday: 6:00 PM Vigil (English)
Sunday: 7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 5:00 PM (English),
1:00 PM (Español)
Monday through Friday: 8:30 AM (English)
Thursday: 7:00 PM (Español)

CONFESION

Thursday: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Saturday: 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM

ADORATION

Weekly Adoration: Friday, 9:00 AM - Noon
First Friday Adoration: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

WELCOME FR. VJ AND FAREWELL FR. B! *continued from page 2*

after finishing my term," he says.

In the meantime, he departs with a heart full of love and gratitude.

"I want to first of all thank God for the opportunity to be part of the diocese and different parishes, and to be part of the lives of so many parishioners and friends," Fr. B says. "I don't know how I can really thank them for their love. I never experienced such a kind of love in my life. I did not know I touched so many people in so many ways. My prayers will be always there for the diocese, which includes all the parishes."

Fr. Boyalla mentioned four ways that the faithful of the diocese can support him in his new role: prayer for his leadership, encouragement of local Pallottine priests, financial resources for Gloria Dei Region's missions in India (GloriaDeiPallottines.com has a donation link), and prayer for the region's mission work.

BIENVENIDO PADRE VJ Y HASTA LUEGO PADRE B! *continúa de la página 3*

"Espero, si Dios quiere, regresar al completar mi plazo," nos dice.

Entretanto, se despide con el corazón lleno de amor y gratitud.

"Ante todo quiero agradecer a Dios la oportunidad de formar parte de la diócesis y varias parroquias, y participar en la vida de tantos feligreses y amigos," dice Padre B. "No sé cómo agradecer su cariño. Nunca he sentido tal amor en mi vida. No sabía que había llegado a tantos y de tan tas maneras. Mis oraciones estarán siempre con la diócesis y sus parroquias."

El Padre Boyalla mencionó cuatro formas en que los fieles de la diócesis pueden ayudarle en sus nuevas funciones: orando por su liderato, alentar a los sacerdotes Palotinos locales, ayudar económicamente y con recursos a las misiones de la Región Gloria Dei en India (GloriaDeiPallottines.com tiene un enlace) y orando por el trabajo misionero de la región.