

The Castillo's Prayer Update



February 2010

It is our prayer that you had a wonderful New Year celebration and that God will bless each one of you this year. God has blessed us with the opportunity to travel to the States and visit our partners in the ministry, as well as potential partners. **It has been a month now since we came to the U.S. and many things have taken place:**

First, Praise God that we faced the need to travel earlier because the MRI had shown a shadow on part of my face and the doctor was a little worried. Praise God I got new MRI that showed no shadows and no signs of any tumors at all.

Second, I went through eye surgery on January 20th and I still have five more weeks of recovery. The double vision is still there but with a lot of work I am able to bring the two images together. At my last visit to the doctor (2 weeks after the surgery) she said she thinks the progress is great and that within the next six weeks my vision should improve. Please pray for that to happen; I hope to not go through more eye surgeries!

Third, we have already had the privilege of visiting two of our supporting churches and, although we only visited for a little while, it was exciting to see familiar faces and be able to share our hearts with them as to what the Lord has done in our lives, as well as working through us. We thank you for your words of encouragement during these visits and we are thrilled and excited about our future visits as well. We praise God and we ask you to praise Him with us. We have scheduled to visit supporting churches from February all the way to the second week of April. **Our plan is to depart from Birmingham and return to Honduras on Wednesday, May 26th. However, we will need to change our trip if we do not have the two weekends of April and the four weekends of May scheduled.** Please pray that new potential partners will be guided by our Lord to have us share what God is doing in and through us and that they might consider partnering with us in this ministry.

We understand the financial difficulties that are taking place worldwide and we realize that the potential of new partners is difficult at the present moment. We do ask you to praise God with us that He has met all our needs in spite of having only 50% of our support last year. Our support has been reduced a little this year - from a little over 50% to 45.7%. Last year, we decided to go with a Honduran Medical Insurance that, at the end of the day, did not cover anything at all of our medical expenses even though everything occurred way after we had acquired the policy. This year, we have decided on an International Insurance with its headquarters in the US. We think it will be better. With this one, we can at least appeal; something we couldn't do before. Please be in prayer for us. This 2010, we will have three kids in school and the medical insurance. For this reason, we need to move up to at least 60-70%.

We also ask you to pray for our ministry in Honduras. Right now, we are looking to improve our facilities to make the building more secure and we need to add a little more space for counseling rooms, as well as a desire for a pastoral library. This new addition would also make the building more secure. Please pray as for this project. We need to raise an estimate of \$38,000. We hope to have the floor plans available in the next few weeks and, Lord willing, I will follow-up with an e-mail sharing with you all the future plans of our church.

We praise God that this type of work allows us to improve our facility and also provide work for church members. We have been involved with the construction of a bathroom for the local public school (*pictured above*), as well as construction in the near future of a classroom. Somebody donated the money for the school and wanted it to be channeled through C.F.C. Well, we have just finished the bathroom and are hopeful to start the classroom soon. This project has provided work for people within the church as well as a wonderful way to connect with our community.

About the Family . . .

Carmen: *“At this time, my prayer is that God will show me what step to take next, especially now that all three of the boys will be in school. For a long time, I looked forward to this time so I could realize my dream of ministering to women or even be able to work in a day care center in our church for kids that come from broken homes. But, because of the level of our support at this moment, I am not sure if I will be able to minister or will need to work in something different to help with finances. We know that God is faithful and He will direct us in the path that we should take. Thanks for your support during these times of difficulty.”*

Andrew: *“I am excited about our Awana Class at Shades Mountain Independent Church. I have also enjoyed being able to visit different churches with my dad and especially be able to see my friends again.”*

David: *“I really like the house where we are staying, especially the sandbox outside where we can play. I also like the trampoline.”*

Ethan: *“I love to play on the trampoline!”*

We are thankful for the Thompson Family and their hospitality during this furlough term!

Furlough . . .

Please praise the Lord with us that He has provided a home apartment for our entire stay while on furlough. We have also been provided with a van to transport our entire family. However, because of the high mileage of the vehicle, we have been recommended not to use it on long trips. So, we find ourselves in need of renting a vehicle while traveling to visit churches that are three or more hours away from our base.

Please continue to pray for our health. The last couple of weeks, our entire family has been hit with colds. We had to take David and Ethan to the doctor to be treated with antibiotics. Carmen has also needed to visit the doctor and we thank God for a dear friend who has not charged us for her visits. Please pray that we stay healthy the rest of our time here. Medical expenses can get expensive and, in the past, that has been a major problem for us. Pray that God will give us clarity of speech as we visit churches and that all might see the passion we have for the work that He has entrusted to us and that He might use us for His honor and glory.

We look forward to our time with you, our dear brothers and sisters in Christ. We thank you in advance for taking time to read this newsletter and also for taking your time to pray for our ministry and for us as a family. If we have not yet seen you, we look forward to our time with you. It has been our greatest delight to be with those of you we have already seen. **Here is a snapshot of our schedule that is coming up:**

Saturday, February 20th-28th: Missions Conference at Briarwood (Alabama)

Sunday, March 7th: Tabernacle Community Church (Michigan)

Sunday, March 14th: Dale Bible Church (Indiana)

Sunday, March 21st and 28th: Colmar Manor Bible Church / Churches in Maryland

Sunday, April 4th: Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 11th: Heritage Bible Church (Indiana)

Sunday, April 18th and 25th: Open

Three weekends in May: Open *(If we are not able to schedule anything, we will plan on returning to the field sooner. Please pray that we will be able to visit other potential partnering churches.)*

For Him,

Andy, Carmen, Andrew, David and Ethan Castillo

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