



The Castillo's Update...

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Andy and Carmen
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The Journey

“*What a Journey!*” This is the expression used by many people when we share how God led us into full-time ministry, how God is leading us back into ministry in Latin America and how we need to raise 78% more support (28% more to get to the field). It has been a journey full of trials. Our faith has been tested, continues to be tested, and will be tested in the future. To be honest, it feels like our faith is like a roller coaster - sometimes it's strong, sometimes it's weak. But, we know that God is in control of our lives and the events that surround our desire to serve Him in Latin America.

Before I continue, please allow me to apologize for not writing sooner. As many of you know, we have also gone through a time of great sickness in our family. Our 5-month-old son has been sick 4 out of the 5 months of his life. He was diagnosed with Asthma and needed to receive steroids for the rest of the winter. Andrew and David have had colds that are due to the changes in climate and, before our February trip to Alabama, your servant (me) had initial signs of pneumonia.

We also thought we needed to wait so we could share with you who our sending church would be. But, because of several difficulties that deal mostly with the strategic focus of the church we thought it would be, they have not yet made a decision whether or not they will partner with us in the ministry in Latin America. However, having talked to the Assistant Missions Pastor of that church, he and I thought it would be best to decline from pursuing the sending aspect from that church. We are now in conversation with both the mother church of the Hispanic ministry where I ministered as pastor and the Hispanic church about the possibility of having them be our sending church. We are thankful that both Maplelawn Baptist Church and Iglesia Bautista Hispana have expressed an interest in supporting us in a sending capacity.

Having said that, we continue our pursuit; yet, we still have a long journey ahead of us. We have reached the 22% mark. In order to leave for the field, our desire and prayer is to be able to reach the 50% mark, even though our timeline (because of visa issues) says that we have to leave for the field by the end of the summer (unless INS give us extra time). We praise God for the percentage that we have reached. We have done our work of contacting many churches (and we continue to do so), but it is up to God through the Holy Spirit to give the committees and congregations that we contact and meet the wisdom to choose to become our strategic partners in the work that God is leading us to do in Latin America.

We thank God for those churches who have been supporting us. We also give thanks to those churches who have pledged to support us once we go to the field, as well as the individuals that are supporting us already. And, we give thanks to each one of you who are praying for us, for God has and is using you greatly in our lives. Please do not be dismayed or discouraged; rather, realize with us that if we are going through these difficult times it isn't necessarily because the field is not for us, but because God is giving us practical training so that when the time comes and we go to the field, we will have strong faith, patience, endurance and other qualities when we face difficulties in that region. We thank you for your prayers and support. Our hope is that God will continue to strengthen you in your faith as He is strengthening us in ours.

I realize that this letter is not very specific but, Lord willing, I will write to you again in the next couple of weeks. This month of April is a very crucial month for us because of some decisions that churches need to make and new churches that we will be visiting shortly. Please, if you can, commit to praying for the following three weeks as we preach the Word and present our ministries in several churches.

Thank you and God bless,

Andy Glen Castillo

World Reach—Celebrating 25 Years of Ministry

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MEETINGS

- **APRIL 8: PREACHING AT IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA**
- **APRIL 15: HERITAGE BIBLE CHURCH**
- **APRIL 22: CEDAR HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH**

PRAYER REQUESTS

- **THE HEALTH OF OUR FAMILY, ESPECIALLY BABY ETHAN**
- **TRAVEL SAFETY FOR THIS MONTH**
- **THOSE WHOM GOD CHOOSES AS OUR PARTNERS IN THE MINISTRY AND HIS BLESSING UPON THEM**
- **THE CHURCHES THAT ARE MAKING A DECISION OF POSSIBLY PARTNERING WITH US IN THE MINISTRY**
- **IGLESIA BAUTISTA HISPANA AS THEY CONTINUE TO SEARCH FOR THE RIGHT PASTOR**
- **THE NEW AREAS WE WANT TO COVER IN OUR MINISTRY (CUBA AND USA)**