

# The Castillo's Update



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## Dear Ones in Christ,

We greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

It has been a while since our last update. Please accept our apologies for that. Many things have been going on in our lives since our last hard copy prayer letter that was sent out in the month of January, so please allow me to share with you what God has done and is doing in the lives of our family, as well as for the ministry that He has called us to do here in Latin America.

In January, Carmen and I had the opportunity to participate in the V.B.S. of Centro Familiar Cristiano (CFC or Christian Family Center), the church plant where we are currently ministering. We had an amazing attendance of around 180 kids, most of them from the neighborhood around the church and a very good percentage of unchurched children. During that week, Carmen was able to teach the class of kids ages 4-6 and I was able to help her, as well as help in teaching the missionary story.

We also had the opportunity to start "La Escuela de Siervos" (School of the Servant) at CFC. This ministry is very similar to the ministry that we are doing through World Reach; that is, preparing lay pastors and leaders for the work of the ministry.



Through this ministry at the church level we want to encourage leaders to have a deeper understanding of Scripture and/or take it to another level and consider going into full-time ministry. The first class that was taught dealt with evangelism. It was called "Understanding the Great Commission". The congregation at CFC will have the opportunity to attend six courses for the rest of this year.

We as a family had the opportunity to travel to the U.S.A. This trip gave me the opportunity to teach a class at Iglesia Bautista Hispana on "Formation for Ministry". It also gave me the opportunity to visit Dale Bible Church in southern Indiana, Maplelawn Baptist Church and Iglesia Bautista Hispana. Also, I had the opportunity to meet with part of the pastoral team at Tabernacle Community Church. We had planned to visit Colmar Manor Bible Church in Maryland. However, the weather, as well as the health of our baby, made it difficult for us to travel. This made us sad, as we had looked forward to our first meeting with this congregation that had decided to partner with us.



## Difficulties in the Ministry

As a family, we have been faced with several difficulties. On the one hand, the newly planted church where we are involved has been going through severe

difficulties. Although we cannot at this point explain fully, we ask for your prayers on behalf of Centro Familiar Cristiano. On the other hand, we are facing

persecution like the one 8 years ago when I was held hostage for 10 days. Since another individual in our town was kidnapped, I have been told that we (especially me) should be really careful because there might be another attempt at kidnapping either myself or someone else in the family. Pray for our protection. Although we know that God is in control of our lives, we are still human and we suffer when we hear that such things may happen to us. Please pray for our safety. Also, please pray for the health of our family, especially our youngest, Ethan, who has suffered from the changes that has incurred from climate, amounts of dust, pollen, etc.

## Our Family



**Carmen** is doing quite well physically, although she has quite a bit of work as she is involved in school activities for our children, the Children's Ministry at CFC and, Lord willing, in the upcoming months will also be leading a women's group at the church. She has been helping quite a bit in the remodeling process of our house. We had to remove the whole roof because of termites and rats. (Sadly, not bats as we had thought). There is a lot of work to be done since we had all our things there when they removed the roof and it rained for a couple of days during that time.

**Andrew** is doing quite well in school. He has made a lot of friends, both at school and at the church. He is also helping us paint our house before we move back in.

**David** is growing and is very anxious to attend school like Andrew. He looks up to his big brother, doing almost everything that he does.

**Ethan** is doing quite well. He went through a surgery while we were in the States and just got his first

checkup since our return. Praise God that his ears are healing nicely.

**Andy** I am doing quite well. I have been involved for a while in the restoration process of a pastor and teaching at Iglesia Bautista Hispana in Grand Rapids for two weeks. While in the States, we had the opportunity to visit Dale Bible Church and meet with the leadership at Tabernacle Community Church. We also presented and shared what God is doing in our lives and ministry at Maplelawn Baptist Church and Iglesia Bautista Hispana, both of them being our sending churches. It was a wonderful time of refreshment to be home with our family and renew our energies while visiting the USA. I will have a very busy schedule this year, as I will be teaching a class in April at our Institute in Managua. I've preached at several churches and we will be teaching twice during the summer months in the southeastern region of Honduras. I've also been meeting with several of the pastors in our town, hoping we will unite forces to share the Gospel and see God's impact on Siguatepeque.



- 2) For the several churches that recently took us on for support: Colmar Manor Bible Church, Tabernacle Community Church and Dale Bible Church.
- 3) For this increase in support. When we came to Honduras, we had 32% and now, six months later, we are up to 52.3%. Praise the Lord!

### We ask for your prayers:

- 1) For our safety. Kidnappings are occurring frequently and we may be an accessible target.
- 2) For wisdom as we continue to deal with the restoration process of a pastor.
- 3) For an increase in our support level.

We give thanks for you daily, realizing that you are an important part of the ministry which God has called us to do.

## Praise and Requests

### We praise God for several reasons:

- 1) For Ethan's health since his surgery. He is doing well and his ears are doing well.

May the Lord bless you,

*Andy, Carmen, Andrew,  
David and Ethan*