

# Castillo's Update



ANDY AND CARMEN

## Ministry Update

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We are constantly reminded of each one of our beloved partners when doing the ministry that God has called us to do here in Central America.

We want to start this letter by apologizing for the length of time that has gone by since our last hard copy prayer letter; but we thank you for the patience that you have shown towards our family.

Since we last wrote to you, several things have taken place and we want to share with you what God has done:

► We had Vacation Bible School back at the end of January. We had around 150 kids during those three days of V.B.S. during which time we shared the Madugu story and shared the Gospel with the kids through the 'Wordless Book'. Several kids accepted Christ during that week and Carmen and I had the privilege of teaching the story to the several groups of children during those days. We finished the event by having a special song prepared by all the children for the regular service. We also had dessert for sale at the end of the service in order to raise money to pay for the bus. Both events turned out to be a great success.

► Andy traveled alone to Birmingham, Alabama for eye surgery because of his double vision problem. The surgery went well. Right after the surgery, Andy had the privilege to travel to Dale, Indiana to preach and teach at one of our supporting churches. He had a wonderful time with the brothers and sisters at Dale Bible Church in Indiana. He was also able to travel to Moulton, Alabama to visit a church seeking their partnership.

Praise God, the surgery went well and glasses are no longer needed. Another praise to God is for His provision through a special family that helped Andy through the surgery.

► Carmen has been coordinating special activities at C.F.C. She recently got many women working to decorate, clean and cook for Father's Day.

► Our family was involved in what we have come to call "Family Day". This event takes place on a given Saturday in the year. We use this event to attract both children and their families to the church through afternoon games and a special meal. We finish up with a time of worship, which takes place right after dinner, ending almost at the time when our worship service usually starts. This event was specifically hard this year for we were competing with a very important soccer match right when the regular service was to start. The positive side is that around 270 people (adults and children) showed up for the event. The negative side is that many of our members preferred to make excuses as to why they wouldn't attend this event.

► Andy was invited to preach at an event that was a get-together by all Central American churches during Resurrection Sunday. This event brought together over 500 people. Many of these people knew Andy from childhood and how shy he was. At the end of the event, they were amazed at what God is doing in and through him. To be honest, he cannot say that he is any different than he was while growing up. He is still shy in large groups and it was hard to get up to preach in such a big crowd. But God did His work in him.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
JANUARY 2009



FAMILY DAY AT C.F.C.



FAMILY DAY AT C.F.C.



RESURRECTION SUNDAY  
SERVICE



## Our Family

**Carmen:** First, I want to start by thanking you for your support towards the ministry that God has called us to do. I would also like to ask you to pray with me for the kids whom we are ministering to on a weekly basis. Many of the kids are coming from broken homes, homes where a family member is involved in gangs and homes where the parents are catholic fanatics and will not allow their children to come to church. (Many of them would rather see their children drinking, etc. than at church). I would also like to share with you a praise: Before “Family Day” we were able to visit some of the kids’ parents. You could not imagine the love they showed me as we shared what we had done previously at the children’s Heroes Club. This visit also allowed us to make new contacts with other families. Once again, thank you for your love and support of our ministry. May the Lord supply all your needs according to His riches in glory.

**Andrew:** I am having a lot of fun here in Honduras. I hope that you can come and visit us. I would love to share with you some of the games that I have learned, like “The Web”. It is a game that I learned at a camp with some of my friends from school.

**David:** When I (*Carmen*) asked David about what he would like to share with you, he said, “I want them to know that I am excited about attending school this coming year.” He will be attending Pre-school, something that has him very excited.

**Ethan:** Loves to watch the movie “Toy Story” over and over again and loves the character, Woody. He loves to play soccer.

**Andy:** As for myself, I would just like you to praise God with me for what He is doing in us. We have been going through some severe trials as a family and as part of t we have gone through are more than what we he church ministry. In general, the trials that

experienced in our years of ministry in the U.S. So, please, pray that we may continue to stand firm in Him. The vision of my eyes is a big praise as well as a big prayer request. God reminds me on a constant basis that there is always a time to rest. My vision is normal. However, when I am overworking myself, the double vision seems like it will come back again and so I rest . . . and the feeling is then gone. Please continue to pray for our health. Pray also as I teach at the Mobile Institute on 1 Corinthians for a week in the month of May. It will be at a place called Chichicaste, about 4 hours away from Siguatepeque. I will also be teaching a class on 1 and 2 Corinthians at the local Bible Institute. Pray that God will give me wisdom and will use me for His glory and honor.

## Furlough

As many of you know, this upcoming September we will celebrate two years of ministry here in Honduras. Although we are encouraged to have our furlough every two years, we as a family decided to change our furlough trip to the U.S. to February 2010. We are in the process of planning our trip. Although most missionaries take 6 months for such an event, we would love to have every weekend scheduled in order to limit as much time as we can in the U.S. due to the economy problems that are being faced worldwide. Currently, we only have one church scheduled in February. We are scheduled to visit one of our supporting churches February 20<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> in Birmingham, Alabama. Beginning with the first weekend in February, we would love to have every weekend filled for our furlough. Would you help us fill this schedule?

Thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

For Him,

*Andy, Carmen, Andrew, David and Ethan*

## PRAYER REQUESTS

~ In the midst of trials, we may stand firm

~ Our furlough schedule will be completely filled

~ New churches will partner with us in the ministry

## FURLOUGH DETAILS

It is our desire to have two bases during our furlough. The first part of the trip, we want to have Birmingham, Alabama as our base and then travel to the churches in the South. The second part of the trip, we want to have Grand Rapids, Michigan as our base and then travel to churches in the North. Please pray that God will provide for housing arrangements as well as a vehicle that we might use to visit our supporting as well as possible partnering churches.

## TRIP DATES

We hope to start visiting churches the first weekend in February. We would love to visit all our supporting churches in the Alabama area during February and into March. We only have one visit scheduled - February 20-28. Would you please consider:

- 1) Helping us set up a speaking arrangement at your church or other churches?
- 2) Helping us find housing as well as a vehicle during our furlough?
- 3) Emailing us with potential dates to visit your church or potential churches?