

The Castillo's Update...

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Greetings to all of you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This month has been filled with excitement through involvement both at the CFC (Christian Family Center) and the MBI (Mobile Bible Institute). I had the privilege to finish my first class in Nicaragua the second week of May! My wife and I rearranged our celebration for 'Mothers Day' because the only day these pastors were able to travel from all over Nicaragua to Managua was on that second week. The way the class in Managua works is that we have two days of classes. One takes place one month (in my case, the first part took place in April) and the second part in another month (the second week of May). I departed for Nicaragua on a Sunday of each month, traveled by bus for more than 8 hours, taught the class on Monday for a little over 8 hours and traveled back to Honduras the following day at 4:00 in the morning. I had a wonderful time with 25 pastors that came from all over Nicaragua. Because of a bus strike, one of them actually had to fly into Managua to take the class. I taught "Contemporary Pastoral Ethics" and what a wonderful time we did have! One of the pastors was around 65 years old and had over 30 years of experience. We talked about the family being a ministry and he said, "If I had known this 30 years ago, my family and I wouldn't have had as many problems as we did."

Some of our upcoming classes for the MBI will take place later on in the summer. For one of them in August, I will be translating for Pastor Ken Burge. He will be coming (along with his family) to Honduras and will be teaching a class

on "Homiletics". We are asking all the graduate students from the MBI in Honduras to come to Siguatepeque (which is a central point) for a three-day conference on "Homiletics". His wife will also be involved in teaching, focusing on pastors' wives, as well as women from a Bible study called "The Joy of Serving". Their son will also be involved through teaching children. Then I will travel to the southeastern part of Honduras to teach a class on "New Testament" (basically a survey through the New Testament).

As a family, we are so thankful to be involved in such a ministry. As you know, there are many pastors that have never had the chance to attend a seminary, yet have the passion to serve God. Well, we praise God that, as a team, we are able to take the seminary to them so that they will be better equipped to do the ministry that God has called them to do in their own congregations.



Christian Family Center (CFC)

We have had several activities at the CFC during the last few months. On April 19, we celebrated 'Family Day'. The Heroes Club (*Children's Ministry*) planned a whole afternoon oriented towards family activities, games, dinner and then, of course, the regular service that revolved around the theme of family. We had a wonderful attendance that day, which made the amount of unbelievers incredibly high.

On the last Sunday of April, we celebrated a church workday. We are currently working on a wall around the church, primarily for security reasons. We began the project thinking that not many people would show up to help. However, we had about 50-60 people come and work throughout the process of preparing the cement, carrying it to where it was needed, cutting some trees that were in the way of the wall, digging holes, etc. It is incredible what we were able to do in half a day. We are planning another workday for the first Sunday of June.

About Our Family

Carmen is doing well and is quite involved with the Children's Ministry at the church. She also has her hands full at home with our three boys. She has adjusted well to the change of cultures. Even though she is a Honduran, she has lived in the U.S. for a long

time and has never been involved in the ministry as both a pastor and missionary wife. She is beginning to develop relationships with the ladies at our church.

Andrew is about to finish Kindergarten and is preparing to enter First Grade at the local Evangelical Bilingual School. His graduation is coming up in June and he is very excited about it. He is very interested in learning to read and write. He has made several good friends both at the school as well as the church.

David wants to begin Kindergarten, although he still has a year to go. He is about to turn three years old but is already really excited about going to school with Andrew.

Ethan is growing! He is also doing things that we never saw our other two children do. We praise God that he has not had an infection since the doctor in the States placed the tubes in his ears.

Other News...

We praise God for what He is doing in our lives. We truly miss ministering to Hispanics in the U.S. but, as we see the need on our own home turf, we realize that God brought us here with a purpose. Currently, the CFC is looking at the need of planting two other churches relatively close to where the CFC is located, yet in places where there are few churches.

These villages are called "Potrerillos" and "Valibrea" and are close to the town where we live (Siguatepeque). Can I ask you to pray for these two areas? We have quite a few people attending the CFC from these villages and many of them have told us of their desire to attend church close to their own home. Please pray with us that we might have the wisdom to prepare for these church plants.

On another note, we ask you to pray for our safety. We, as ministers, are asked to be available at all times. Of course, traveling during the day is fairly easy. But once the clock hits 6:00 in the evening, it is not as easy. Every kidnapping event that takes place in our country (*believe me, they are quite frequent*) makes our hearts hurt - for those who are in chains as well as their families. It burns on the scars left by my own kidnapping years ago.

We thank you for your partnership by praying for us, for the ministry and for our country. We also praise God for you and pray for you, our dear beloved brothers and sisters, who are praying us through each day.

May the Lord bless you all,

*Andy, Carmen, Andrew,
David and Ethan Castillo*