

The Castillo's Update



WORLD REACH

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Walking by Faith

It certainly has been a while since the last time that we sent out our prayer letter. We do apologize for that and hope that you have received our e-mail updates. If you haven't, please do send me an e-mail so that we can put you in our list and you might receive our e-mail updates. We also wanted to let you know that we continually give thanks to God for each and every one of you, praying for you constantly, and we are also thankful for your prayers on our behalf.

I also wanted to give you an update of what God has been doing and is doing in our lives. Walking by faith is something that we have learned and continue to learn in very practical ways in our lives. Without a doubt you have heard about the trials and difficulties that we as a family have been going through, but we praise God, because in the midst of our trials, we have been able to grow and furthermore become more mature in our knowledge of God.

The first trial that we went through from the beginning of our pre-field ministry was the fact that we did not have a sending church. For several years we waited patiently for a church that would come behind us in this capacity, and we now give glory to God because after two years of waiting He provided not one sending church but actually two co-sending churches. Several weeks ago Maplelawn Baptist Church and Iglesia Bautista Hispana decided to become our co-sending churches.

Furthermore, besides this great privilege of having two sending churches, after our last letter we have two and possibly a third church that have become partners with us in our ministry in Latin America. We are now surely at a 30% support level and with the third church possibly supporting us on a monthly basis we would be coming roughly close to a 34% support level. We are thankful also because there are 2-3 churches right now that are considering partnering with us in our missionary endeavor. Our goal is to be able to reach the 50% mark before we leave later on in the month of August or the first week of September, all depending on when we can send out a container with our things down to Honduras.

Maybe there are some who are wondering why are we leaving with only 34% of our support? Maybe there is someone wondering if it is God's will for us to go to the field? Our current departure timetable is not what we desire nor is it the policy of World Reach. The reality that we face is that our visa status requires us to leave the United States. We have studied these questions in great detail from a biblical perspective. We also have doubted at times, but this is the conclusion that we have come to:

First, our faith is founded on God Himself and not the calling itself. We feel that God is leading us to the mission field, but in the mission field there will be trials and difficulties that are not an expression that God does not want us there, but rather that God is forming, constructing and transforming our lives. Our trust is in God Himself, that even if His purposes are hidden from us, they are not to harm us but through trials He is transforming us for His own glory and honor. Second, faith, as Pastor James Macdonald puts it, is believing the Word of God and acting upon it no matter how you feel because God promises a good result. This good result that God promises is not a reference to an increase in financial support, less needs, etc. rather it is a reference to the transforming power of God in our lives and the lives of the people around us because of what He is already doing.

Are we then worried about not reaching or surpassing our goal? Yes, every once in a while as we look at our need from natural human eyes, we see that we have 30-34% monthly support, we need at least 16-20% more to reach our goal and 70-64% our total need. We look at our one time outgoing expense account and we only have 25% of our support for that need, we look at the fact that we do not have any other scheduled presentation for the rest of our time here. We have to leave for the field at the end of August so, humanly speaking, it seems impossible to reach our goals. But then, there is the faith aspect. We only need to turn to Hebrews 11-12 in our Bibles to look at the long resume of people that God has impacted demonstrating to them who He is and the only thing that we can think is, what is impossible for mankind is possible for God. Either God will provide what we need, or with what we have He will satisfy all our needs. I place our trust on Him.



Andy and Carmen
Ethan, Andrew, David

Travel Plans:

- **JULY 28TH-AUGUST 6TH:**
TRAVEL TO ALABAMA.
WEEK SPENT AT WORLD REACH.
- **SEPTEMBER 1ST:**
POSSIBLE TRAVEL DATE TO HONDURAS.

Prayer Requests:

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



Andrew and friends on his last day of classes.



Andrew and his friend Corey.



Left to right: David, Andrew and baby Ethan

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Family News

Carmen is doing well, she is excited about our trip to the field, yet there is a lot of preparing to be done before our trip. She is currently working on all the things that we need to take, the things that we need to sell, etc.

Andrew is also doing well. He is excited also about the trip, yet he is sad because he is leaving his friends behind. Although we have talked to him about our trip, I don't think he fully understands that we are going to live in Honduras. Please pray for this transition that it won't be too hard on him.

David is about to turn 2 years old next month. He is able to speak much more than he used to, but his favorite word until this day is "basketball". He truly enjoys playing basketball (watch out NBA!).

Ethan is doing much better in terms of health now that summer has hit Michigan. He has been sick however the past three weeks. He was put under antibiotics four times in the last three weeks. He also had

some kind of skin virus so he had to take benadryl for a few days. Please continue to pray for him. He was diagnosed with asthma, and although all three have it, Ethan has it the worst.

Andy: I am currently involved in everything that you could think of. I continue to contact churches, keep up with them, and help in our sending churches as much as I can. I am finishing up my second Masters at Seminary. Currently I am working on my last class which is a thesis that I am putting together. I am also involved in contacting companies that have experience sending containers; we are searching for the best price out there. Please do pray that we will be able to do all that we need to do before our departure for the field.

Ministry News

As many of you know an important part of our ministry is leadership development through teaching in the Mobile Bible Institute. Our plan is to be involved in several of the Institutes in Latin America. We will be teaching at the Mobile Bible Institutes in Honduras and Nicaragua, and then we are planning on starting something in Cuba and also hosting a Mobile Bible Institute here in the US among the Hispanic community.

For the past four months I have spent time teaching a class to four members of Iglesia Bautista Hispana. There is the possibility of continuing to help them to prepare them for the work of the ministry, and also of helping other churches in the area by training their leaders as well. One of our plans then is to begin a Institute here in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and there is also the possibility of starting something in Birmingham, Alabama.

Please do pray for this opportunity. We are excited because as we have ministered here among the Hispanic people in the US, we have seen not only the need for training leaders, but also the need of those who are being trained to have the passion to serve God in full time ministry. They do not have the education, do not know if they will return to their home country and get Bible education, and the possibility of attending and receiving a Bible degree in the US is really difficult for them. Please pray for this new endeavor. We thank you and praise God for your partnership in the ministry that God has called us to do. Remember, our work is an extension of your ministry as we are all part of the universal or invisible body of Christ.

We also ask you to pray for our departure to the field. We as a family are finding ourselves in a very unique situation. Most missionaries have the opportunity to spend two, three or more years raising support. We on the other hand find ourselves in the need to raise our support in a few months, leave for the field under-supported mainly because as Hispanic Nationals our visa expires, and there is no grace in terms of time to stay any longer. Please consider praying for us, giving us the chance to share with you the heartbeat that God has placed in us for His ministry in Latin America.

God bless,

Andy Glen Castillo
Andy and Carmen Castillo