

The Castillo's Prayer Update



August, 2009

Blessings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It certainly has been a while since our last prayer letter, and we do want to apologize for that. Since my return from eye surgery in the States, Carmen and I have been involved in many planned events. First, we are continually working with the children's ministry at C.F.C. (Christian Family Center). Carmen is involved by teaching the class of 7-8 year olds, and I



am coordinating the children's ministry. We are not only interested in discipling children but we as a couple are also involved in discipling the teachers and their assistants. We have regular

meetings with them, sometimes we even have outings to promote unity within the team. We currently have a group of over 24 teachers and assistants within the club, and a regular attendance of approximately 100 children. Secondly, I had the opportunity to travel in the month of May to Chichicaste, where I taught a class on 1 Corinthians. We had a group of 21 individuals, men and women who are involved in the local church, some of the men interested in going into full time ministry, and others are sent in order to be a support group for the pastor. Most of the churches they represent are church plants who cannot fully support a pastor and their family, so their training becomes a great help for the pastor, for they alone are doing all the ministry as they support themselves through agriculture, and are also involved in ministry. Thirdly, I was asked by some of the local leaders of the Bible Institute in Siguatepeque to teach a class on "Exegesis of 1-2 Corinthians" which started in May and will soon end this thursday. Currently they have been struggling

having many students, as a matter of fact I only have three students who will soon graduate from the Institute, however they are interested in being involved in full time ministry. This Institute as far as I know is one of few Institutes in the country. I have been asked to teach a class on "Hebrews" this upcoming trimester. Fourthly, our group of teachers and their assistants



worked this summer alongside a missions group that came from North Carolina in doing a V.B.S. in a village called Balibrea. During that week we had an approximate of 180-200 kids. Some of the kids have decided

to continue attending our Heroes club on Saturday afternoons, and we continue to follow up on them in order to continue to disciple many of them whom have shown interest in knowing more about Christ. Fifthly, I



decided to begin a discipling class at C.F.C. after we saw the need there, for it had been a while since we've had baptisms at the Church. This past Saturday I had the privilege to baptize 7 individuals who

are already plugging into the ministry of our church. The idea is to continue discipling them for some time while starting another teaching session of baptism with another group. Please pray as we do these ministries in our local church.

About the Family...

Carmen: For the last two months I have been going through several trials dealing with health issues originating from stress, but because of His mercy, love, faithfulness, comfort, peace and hope where with me at every single moment. I praise God for although the process wasn't easy the culmination of these trials have moved me to a deeper dependence on Him as well as moving me towards a deeper maturity in Him. I do realize that more trials will come, but I hope that I will be able to put in practice the lesson learned for His glory and Praise. A passage that helped me during these tough times is "He giveth power to the faint; and to him that hath no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:29-31. Thank you for your prayers and support on our behalf and that of our ministry.

Andrew: I am now finishing my vacations having spent time with my grandparents, uncles and cousins. I have new friends now, and I will soon have a new dog!

David: On Wednesday 29th of July of this year I accepted Christ as my personal savior. I will also attend Pre-K this upcoming month of September, and I am really excited about going to school.

Ethan: I really love being outside of my house, especially visiting my grandparents. I also love learning new things!

Andy: I also, along with Carmen have had my good series of trials. For one, after going through surgery this past February my double vision came back after a long struggle with it during the month of May. For the whole month of May it seemed as if it would not return, but at the end, it did. The double vision came back with severe headaches as well as with severe burning sensation now on both eyes. As the day goes on the burning sensation come, and well, I have learned to deal with the pain. I've been given eye drops that at the end make it worse, for although it calms the burning sensation it only does so for several minutes and then it returns with greater strength. Lord willing I plan to see Dr. Braswell (Doctor who did the surgery) while he comes to Honduras on August 12th, if not (because of the political situation in Honduras) seeing him until our furlough next February. Please pray as I juggle with ministry and family responsibilities while struggling with this pain. I, however, praise God, that since the double vision came back, I have a greater peace, and surely greater dependence on Him, knowing that: "to them that love God all things work together for good" Rom. 8:28a

Furlough

Our family and I are planning our furlough for next year. It is incredible that by the time of our trip to the States it has been two and a half years since we came to Honduras. Our trip is planned for the month of February, and the length of the trip will depend on the possibility of scheduling meetings with our partnering churches/individuals and possible new partners/individuals. Would you pray with us on several requests? First, will you and your church consider a weekend, or if during the week for us as a family to share with you our ministry? Currently we only have one church scheduled. We would like every weekend to be scheduled in a church starting the first weekend of February. The only schedule that is set is February 20th-28th in Alabama. We would really love to have churches in the south schedule for the first month or month and half during the month of February and depending on how many go into the first half of the month of March; we then would love to schedule all churches in the north scheduled for the second part of our furlough, in the month of March forward. We would love to have our whole schedule ready by September 22nd for in order to get good ticket prices the sooner the better, but we cannot do it without this information. Will you e-mail us to let us know when it will be best for us to visit your church? Could you plan at least two to three potential weekends just in case somebody has taken one of those weekends? I will e-mail you back as soon as I get your response to put you in my schedule. Second, during this time we will have at least two needs...transportation for a family of 5, as well as a place in Alabama for the first half of our trip and a place in Michigan for the second part of our trip? Michigan and Alabama will be our bases to visit churches in the north and the south respectively...can you pray with us for these two needs? Please pray also for new potential partners. We praise God that although with all the financial instability we have lost a little support putting us again at around 47% of our total support...can you pray and motivate churches, businesses and individuals to hear about our ministry and the possibility of a potential partnership? Again, we thank you for your prayers on our behalf, for your support and your constant words of encouragement in times of difficulty.

For Him,

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