

The Castillo's Update...

November 2008

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GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD AND SAVIOR, JESUS CHRIST!

It surely has been a while since our last hard copy prayer letter and we want to start by apologizing. That one was sent during the month of August; however, many of you have been kept up-to-date with e-mails. Please let us know through e-mail if you wish to receive updates through email, as well as hard copy prayer letters.

In the month of August, we had the privilege of having the presence of Pastor Ken Burge, Mrs. Kim and their son, Kenny, with us. They traveled to Honduras for several reasons, among them to spend time with us as a family and also be involved in what we are doing in Honduras. Pastor Ken gave a conference on Homiletics for three days, preached on the topic of marriage and then preached our main service at Christian Family Center (C.F.C.). Mrs. Kim had two Bible studies, one with the ladies of C.F.C. and the other with ladies from different churches. With the youth from different churches, Kenny had a mini-conference on web design and a Bible study.

The month of August was also a very difficult month for our family. It marked the beginning of serious health concerns both for Carmen and myself. I (Andy) began experiencing a burning sensation in my eyes which was so painful that I decided to look for medical help. After talking to the Ophthalmologist, she concluded that my vision was good and that I might just need some artificial tear drops. Well, several weeks later, I had a vertical double vision problem that has been with me until this day. I visited the Ophthalmologist once again and she ran some further tests - an MRI on my brain, blood tests for thyroid and glucose problems and a heart checkup. Everything came back normal.

Well, it has been three months since I began having these problems and two months since all my testing. Thankfully, several individuals - two doctors in Honduras, an Ophthalmologist in the States and some friends - encouraged me to consider traveling to the States to see if the problem can be diagnosed. So, I will be traveling to Birmingham, Alabama and will meet with a Neuro-Ophthalmologist. Please pray for this appointment.

In the month of September, I was scheduled to travel to Chichicaste to teach a class on New Testament. However, I was not able to teach the class because it was during the week that I had to get all those medical tests done. I re-scheduled the class for the month of October.

I traveled to Chichicaste the first week of October. I taught the New Testament Class to about 25 students; several of them lay pastors, many of them leaders in their local churches. The first day was un-eventful. With every new missionary, students do not know what attitude the missionary will have so they tend to withdraw and close up. Well, the second day of class was different. There was enough water in the tank for the ladies to shower, but not enough for the men. The men had to go to the nearby river and shower there. Well, they were all amazed when they saw me, their teacher, going with them to take a bath with sufficient clothes as if going to the beach. That event alone marked what was going to happen the rest of the week. Although, they shared little in the class setting, once we had several breaks and after meals, they came and opened themselves up by sharing what God was doing in their lives and through them. It went so well that I was able to identify some of the needs that we need to consider as future classes. One of those classes is Church Planting. Please pray for us as we plan our schedule for next year's teaching courses.



Centro Familiar Cristiano (CFC) . . .

We praise God for what He is doing at C.F.C. For one, the majority of our brothers and sisters in Christ are people that have not been reached out to by the local church. We have people coming from different areas outside Siguatepeque, as well as people that come from town. One of the biggest struggles that we've had as a church is being able to keep up with the expenses that we have with our current bus. The bus was bought several years ago at an amazing price and it surely did pay off to have that bus. However, it is now turning into a liability. There are only two options available for this bus. The first would be to fix it. However, we would need to buy a new engine which would cost us around the same price for what we paid for the bus and what we could sell the bus for. According to several of our church members, if we go this route, we will find ourselves with a problem-free bus for a year and then we would find ourselves in the need of selling it. The second option is to sell the bus for just about the same price that we bought it for and then buy a slightly-used 29-35 passenger bus or maybe even a small one for 15 passengers. Please remember that, as I mentioned before, the majority of people that we are reaching out to are not able to help us fully pay for a bus. We will, however, have several activities for the purpose of raising funds, but will also need your prayers on our behalf. We are currently seeking to buy a bus either in the U.S. and ship it down to Honduras or buy a used bus in Honduras. We praise God that one of our supporting churches has given towards the buying of this bus. Please continue to pray for this need.

About Our Family . . .

Carmen is doing well. A few weeks ago, she was diagnosed with a nodule on her thyroid which was 2 cm long. We praise God that, after the biopsy, the doctor diagnosed that it was benign. However, she is taking some pills to reduce the size of the nodule. She will have her next appointment in January. Please pray for her.

Andrew is now in the first grade. He loves being able to read to the point that he will use his recess time to practice reading. Although he is well adjusted in school with his friends, he still misses the U.S. and often asks about our 'Calling to Honduras'.

David is now ready to start school. It often seems that he's been ready for a long time. We praise God that he has adjusted well, is making new friends at church and is always keeping his Mom busy.

Ethan is growing! He is also doing things that we never saw our other two children do. He just turned 2 and, well, he just loved hitting a Clifford pinata with family and church friends!

Other News . . . Prayer Requests . . .

Please continue to pray for our country, our town of Siguatepeque and our political leaders. We have seen an increase in crime; namely, kidnappings. In our own town alone, there have been about 9-10 kidnappings take place since late this summer, two of them within the last three weeks. Please pray for our safety as we have experienced such crime in person and it sometimes feels like an open wound.

We also ask for your prayers on my behalf (*Andy*). I will be traveling to Birmingham, Alabama to visit a Neuro-Ophthalmologist. Our hope and prayer is to find the problem with my vision and, Lord willing, continue to minister in the same capacity that I have in the past. Please pray (*since we have gone through many trials*) that God will continue to give us courage, peace and energy to keep going in the race placed in front of us.

We also ask you to pray for our support. We praise God that we are at 50% of our support; however, there are various needs that are still unmet. Please pray that God will continue to raise partners that are interested in what He is doing in Central America.

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

May the Lord bless all of you,

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