

The Castillo's Prayer Update



NOVEMBER 2009

Peace and grace to you, beloved brothers in Christ. It is our hope and prayer that you and your family will have a blessed Christmas. We are thankful to our God for the many blessings that He has poured on us during these last few months, many that we will not have enough room to share in this letter. However, we do hope to share with you in person once we are on our furlough starting this upcoming January 25th, 2010.

The last few months of the year have been very busy for us and we also have gone through several trials. On the ministry side, we continue to minister at our 7-year-old church "Centro Familiar Cristiano". Our Church Anniversary is the first weekend of December. I have had the privilege to be involved this year as the coordinator of the financial committee at the Church, as well as the coordinator of the Heroes Club (Children's Ministry). Carmen is heavily involved in the Heroes Club as the lead teacher of the 7-8 year-olds and is mentoring four assistants that she has under her wing. She is also involved in coordinating special activities at the Church and I am planning the Christmas celebration. So, this time of the year will be very busy for us. With the Heroes Club teachers and assistants, we are planning a small mission trip for the first week of January to Erandique, Lempira (four hours away from our home, up in the mountains). We will be doing Vacation Bible School, training their Sunday School teachers and going door-to-door doing evangelism. We are looking forward to that time.

I also had the opportunity to teach a class for three months on "Exegesis on the Epistle to the Hebrews". The group that I taught graduated the first week of November. We look forward to the wonderful things that God will do through them in the ministry. I also continue to minister by doing Discipleship and Baptism classes. We recently had a second group of baptisms where two of our members

from the Heroes Club ministry went through the waters of baptism, alongside a lady at our church and her daughter.

In the midst of all the things that we are doing, we ask that you continue to pray for us as a family. We have been going through severe trials, dealing specifically with health issues. Praise God, Carmen received the good news that the nodule in her thyroid is not growing. According to the doctors, that means she can stop taking the medicine for her thyroid or, at the very least, reduce it. Ethan, having lost one of the tubes in his ears, still has ear infections in the ear where the tube still remains. And, in my case, the double vision came back with a lot of headaches and burning sensation. I am in Birmingham as I write this letter, hoping that the surgery will take place; if not, it will be in January at the front end of our furlough. I cannot use the prism glasses anymore because my double vision has gotten so bad that I can't use glasses.

Please continue to pray for my father-in-law. God has been doing wonderful things in his life in the last few months, but the trials that he is going through are difficult. He was diagnosed with cancer; a tumor was wrapped around his pancreas and it was removed. However, they also removed part of his stomach, intestines and even a small part of his pancreas to do a biopsy. The biopsy came back normal and we praise God for His healing in the life of my father-in-law, both physically and spiritually. Please pray as he begins the process of restoration back to his family, as well as to the ministry.

We are always thankful for your prayers on our behalf and we look forward to our time with you this upcoming spring. If you are not on the list of churches that we are going to visit, please e-mail me or contact the World Reach office so that we can visit with you and share what God has done in and through our lives in our ministry in Central America.

From the Family...

Carmen – *“I praise God for His love, mercy, faithfulness and discipline. God is restoring the marriage of my parents. My Dad did not want to return home, but then he was touched by the Hand of God with a tumor around his pancreas. His heart changed and continues to be changed as we speak. The doctors are even amazed because of his healing. They thought he was going to die either during the major surgery or a few days after it and yet he is still recuperating from it. I do know and the doctors recognize that God is the one who has done a miracle in his life. Praise the Lord! Psalm 55:22”*

Andrew – *“I am just delighted that soon I will be able to visit the US and see some of my friends once again.”*

David – *“I am happy that I have a good friend in school. His name is Josias.”*

Ethan – Even though he is very young (just turned 3), he is Carmen’s partner in prayer! Whenever he sees Carmen kneeling down to pray, he will kneel down at her side, bring his hands together, close his eyes and pray with her.

Furlough...

My family and I praise the Lord for many things. **First**, we have bought our tickets at a very good price. If I do not go through the surgery now (I have not heard back from the doctor), we will be flying to Detroit, Michigan on January 25 and I will go through the surgery on January 28. **Second**, we had to make some definite decisions and God provided. The school in Honduras said that Andrew and David need to be in school and having two places (Alabama and Michigan) as our bases limits the possibility of attending school. So, after praying about it, God opened the door for a solution. A house was provided in Alabama for our full stay during our furlough, so we will be traveling during the weekends to visit churches and the kids will be able to attend school during the week. **Third**, we praise God that many of you have set up a time to visit with you. We thank you for emailing or calling to let us know when it is best to visit you and share what God has done in and through us. We still have some dates available so please email us if you want us to share at your church on one of those dates. A major prayer request is for transportation. We have housing but we need transportation for five, as well as car seats. I believe our oldest does not need a car seat (he is seven) but our two youngest do. Please pray for these requests. Here is a list of the dates taken and the ones available to visit with you. Please email us as soon as you can.

Sunday, February 7th: Available for a Church in Alabama (Surgery was on the 28th)

Sunday, February 14th: Available

Saturday, February 20th-28th: Missions Conference at Briarwood (Alabama)

Sunday, March 7th: Tabernacle Community Church (Michigan)

Sunday, March 14th: Dale Bible Church (Indiana)

Sunday, March 21st & 28th: Colmar Manor Bible Church/Churches in Maryland.

Sunday, April 4th: Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 11th: Heritage Bible Church

Sunday, April 18th & 25th: Possible Churches in Virginia

We do have May open; however, the closer the meetings are together, the best for us for we want to return to the field as soon as possible.

For Him,

Andy, Carmen, Andrew, David and Ethan Castillo

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