

# THE CERNAS NEWSLETTER



August 2019

Dear praying friends:

The last couple of months have been loaded with activities, and with the Lord's blessings. We thank God for churches like Greater Portland Baptist Church (Portland, OR), that send groups here to minister and encourage. Also, God has been opening doors for us, as a church, to reach others with the Gospel.

A group of 12 members from Greater Portland Baptist Church came to visit us for one week in July. My mother (Rosa Cerna) and nephew (Brandon Arévalo) were part of this group. They did many activities with us, including painting a few rooms of our assistant pastor's house. One of the highlights of their trip was that we had an activity in one of the public schools here in Santa Ana. We thank the Lord that over 50 children heard the Gospel, and there were some professions of faith. One of the teachers, who is Catholic, even invited us to come back. Dora (Mauricio's wife) shared the Gospel to the children. It was a blessing to see her share God's Word in the school her children attend. We are praying that we can establish a church in that area of the city someday.

In the month of July, we also had the blessing of celebrating the graduation of two men from our Bible institute. José Escobar and Rolando Pacheco have been members of the church for years. They have shown the desire to know more about God, serve Him, and share His Gospel with others. A few weeks after his graduation, José Escobar has a desire to start a Bible study, in his home, this month. The objective is that God would use it to develop more preachers, and to reach others for Christ. We will meet outside his home 45 minutes before the study, to go witness and to invite others. We are excited because God placed this desire in his heart.

After our last graduation, 3 years ago, we started the Sunday school at the church. Mauricio took charge of this ministry and, two years later, was ordained to the ministry. So we have seen how God can use the Bible institute to develop servants. Please pray for José and his wife Marlene as they get started with this ministry. Please also pray for their neighborhood, Barrio San Miguelito, that God would open doors for reaching people, and establishing a church there eventually.

For our children, special events are their favorite memories. July was full of these special events from the Bible Institute graduation, to having a Missions group come spend a week with us. It is encouraging to us to see how our kids can form a bond with brothers and sisters in Christ from other parts of the world. Rosa made a good friend, and our boys greatly enjoyed having time with some of the teenagers. We are thankful for these opportunities to form friendships. It was not easy for them to get back to their schooling. But, they are encouraged by the fact that this school year is almost over. They will finish in October. Please pray that our children can continue to grow spiritually, and physically strong. Thank you for praying for them and for us.

Steve Cerna