

# THE CERNAS NEWSLETTER



December 2019

Dear churches and friends:

Over the past several weeks, we have continued to see God's hand of blessing in our lives, and in the lives of many of our church members. We are thankful to report the Lord's faithfulness in keeping us here on the field for another year. If God permits, we are excited about what He will do in our lives in 2020.

It is interesting to see how, many times, things don't turn out like we plan them. The Lord ends up showing us that He has better plans. When we started our transition to buy a property, I did not think that it would take as long (almost two years and counting) as it has. Our greatest desire was to be able to do this in complete dependence on God. Obviously, that is the greatest need, not only for churches in El Salvador, but all over the world. There is no doubt in my mind that if we planned on doing things in our strength and wisdom, we would have something already. However, that kind of way of doing things only creates much more problems than it solves. So we continue to trust in the Lord, and are leaning on Isaiah 30: 15 which says: "...in returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength..." Please continue to pray for us. We are very much excited to see what the Lord will do with us.

By God's grace, the morale at the church has been high lately. Last month we celebrated the 11th anniversary of our church. We had a guest preacher (Mario Torres) who came all the way from San Miguel (about 100 miles away) to be a blessing to us. Because we had good weather, we were able to use the park in front of our house for the service. There was a good attendance, and some unsaved people had the chance to hear the Gospel.

This month of December we will be blessed to have Gilberto Orellana preach a service for us. Brother Orellana has been a missionary to Spain since before the year 2000. As a church we have been supporting him, and others, for several years. He has a special ministry of trying to reach Muslims for Christ. The city (Malaga) where he lives has a great influx of African immigrants. We are excited to see him, and his family, as they don't get the opportunity to come back to their native El Salvador very often. Please pray that our church would be more burdened for missions. We are certain that the Lord is not done sending missionaries from El Salvador to the furthest regions of the planet.

Our children finished out the school year, and are now enjoying their longest break from classes. They will be on vacation all of November, December, and the first half of January. Much like summer vacation in the States, we use this period to enjoy extra family time. We spend extra time playing outside, and the kids sleep in. Christine studies American history with the kids since they do not learn this in school. Please pray that we can maximize the short time that we have with them. With each passing school year, we are more aware that this season of life will change. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

Steve Cerna

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