

THE CERNA FAMILY

MISSIONARIES IN EL SALVADOR

June 2021

Dear praying friends,

With much gratitude to the Lord, we write this letter. These past couple of months have been full of His blessings. We rejoice at how the Lord is able to bring some sheep back into His fold, the open door He has given to us to minister/mentor others, His power in keeping a church together in the midst of obstacles, and His loving hand towards our family.

As preachers of the Gospel, many times we minister to straying sheep. In some cases, the sheep stray so often that we become weary in dealing with them. At the same time, we realize how God is dealing with us, and how He wants us to be patient and merciful. Just recently, I had pretty much given up on one of our church members. By God's grace, as I was meditating from the Book of James, God impressed upon my heart the last two verses of this book. I was reminded that in some cases, as a pastor, I have to take the initiative in restoring others to Christ. So, I decided to send this sheep a text, letting him know how much God loves him, and how he (and his family) can be restored. Amazingly, even though this man was drinking at a bar, he received my text. He let me know that he was tired of straying and that he wanted God to restore his life. So, I met with him the following day, he rededicated his life to Christ and has been faithfully coming to church. Please pray for Brother Zaldaña and his family that they would ultimately be rooted in Christ.

As a result of the Pandemic, and not being able to have physical church services more than once a week, we have needed to get more creative in ministering to people. At this moment, my wife and I have been meeting with several different people per week. In many cases, the objective has been to encourage them in their walk with Christ. In one special case, the unsaved wife of one of our church members has sought advice from Christine. Please pray that God fulfills His will in these precious lives.

It is amazing to consider just how much our country, and the world, has changed over the past 3 ½ years. It was in January 2018 that the Lord led us to stop renting a building in order to save for our own property. Even though we have had church at several different locations, and in different ways, the Lord continues to keep the church together. Even though the temptation has been to get impatient, there is a collective anticipation that God will do something great. Please pray for us as we wait. The housing market has turned more beneficial towards the seller. However, this does not discourage us. God will fulfill His promises no matter what the circumstances.

God's loving hand towards our family has been evident to us in the past months. A pastor's wife from Florida gave us a surprise three-day visit, mainly to encourage Christine, and deliver some gifts the church had gathered for her. We have not had a visitor from the States in two years, so this was an exciting time for our family. We also see God's hand in the spiritual growth and maturity our daughter has demonstrated over the past months. Please join us in prayer for our sons, that we will see this same spiritual growth in their lives as they get older. Thank you for praying for our family.

The Cernas

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