

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!

December 2020

Dear praying friends,

As we approach the end of another year, we cannot help but be thankful for how the Lord has navigated us through it. In fact, we have come to realize that 2020 has been a year in which we have found it quite easy to thank our Lord. It is amazing how much perspective one can gain, in the Lord, when being forced to slow down. In spite of all of the unforeseen circumstances we have faced, God has encouraged us even further about His plans for El Salvador.

When the world is so focused on illness and physical ailments, it becomes easy for us Christians to lose focus towards a lost and dying world. Because of the pandemic, there were many limits in our country as far as communicating the Gospel personally. There was a great temptation to grow complacent as a result. In spite of all this, and by God's grace, I was able to witness, on average, to one person per day during the year. We are firm believers in the power of God's Word (Hebrews 4:12). Although God can give us abilities and resources to reach people with the Gospel, these things are not essential. If we go directly to people, and preach to them, there is no limit as to what God can do. In fact, most of the fruit in our church is a result of believing this. Please keep praying for us to depend on God's Word and Spirit to do His work.

In our last letter we wrote to you about how Luis Zaldana rededicated his life to Christ. By God's grace, he continues with his desire to walk with God. We still keep meeting once a week, and are focusing on God's will and His personal promises to believers (beginning at salvation). We are seeing spiritual growth in him as he applies God's promises to his life. He has avoided being influenced by worldly "friends" and is treating his wife (tenderly) in a way no one expected. Because of what God is doing in Luis' life, it has given us a better opportunity to minister to his brother Miguel (age 17). Please keep praying for the salvation of Luis' wife (Verenice). Pray that the Lord will keep touching the hearts of young men so that we can reactivate the Bible Institute after this pandemic is over.

As always, we would like to close our prayer letter with news about our family. We are happy to share that our family is doing well. Our children completed the virtual school year at the end of October. They have a break for the months of November and December. Joshua finished the year with an A honor roll, Caleb ended the year with an AB honor roll, and Rosa finished the year with a B honor roll. We are happy (and very relieved!) that this chapter of a challenging year has been closed. Thank you for praying for us as we guide our children. We greatly appreciate your prayers and support.

We pray for God's richest blessings as you celebrate Christmas and reflect on God's great love.

Steve Cerna

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