

# Merry Christmas

December 2023

Dear praying friends,

As we get ready to end the year, we are overwhelmed with gratitude toward our Lord. God has continued to show Himself faithful and strong on our behalf. He has allowed us to minister to another church, used us to train a laborer within our church, opened doors to witness to many people, and continues to take care of our family.

Just this past weekend, I was invited to preach at Tabernaculo Bautista de San Miguel. This is the church we worked with our first two years (2006-2008) in El Salvador. They were having a special event with preaching and workshops. The church asked me to preach the Bible perspective (truth) on gender distinctions. Even here in El Salvador, we are being bombarded by the world's perspective (confusion) about gender and relationships. By God's grace, I ended up preaching four times, starting from Genesis 3. I had a blessed time with my brothers and sisters in San Miguel. As always, I left feeling more ministered to than what I, in God's strength, could minister to them.

It is always a blessing to see how God raises up laborers. As I left for San Miguel. One of the men in our church was left in charge of the service here in Santa Ana. Rolando Pacheco is someone that many would consider among "the foolish of this world (1 Cor. 1:27)." However, he was led to Christ about 12 years ago, was discipled, and trained in our Bible Institute. The Lord has turned him into a faithful believer, one who depends on God as he recognizes his weaknesses. This past Sunday, Rolando led the singing and preached the sermon. Please pray for strength for Brother Rolando. Pray that the Lord would continue to raise up laborers for His glory.

As we come to the end of the year, we are thankful to the Lord for continually opening doors for us to share Christ with people. Before going to San Miguel, we were having problems with our van. So, I called the mechanic (Ernesto) to come fix the problem. Thankfully, it was not serious. At the same time, I used this as an opportunity to witness to Ernesto. He is someone I've known since about the beginning of our time in Santa Ana. Although I've witnessed to him several times before, I could sense that he was more attentive than ever. Part of this is because his wife is about to give birth. Please pray for Ernesto's salvation, and for the Lord to continue to give us the strength and faithfulness to witness to people as long as He wants us here.

Although Thanksgiving is not celebrated in El Salvador, we make sure we remember this important holiday. Christine finds ways to make traditional dishes from scratch. We enjoy time as a family. Even though Rosa is away at college, we have video calls with her throughout the day. We give the boys a day off from school to focus on how grateful we are for all that God has done for us. While sharing what we are thankful for, we noticed that each of us thanked God for His provision for our family. We are thankful for each of you and your faithful support. We pray God's richest blessings on you as you celebrate our Savior's birth.

Yours in Christ,  
The Cernas

