

# THE CERNA FAMILY

---

## MISSIONARIES IN EL SALVADOR

February 2024

Dear praying friends,

This new year has brought with it many exciting blessings. The Lord continues to open doors with evangelism, our children's ministry, new ideas, and family blessings. It is, without a doubt, a most exhilarating time to be serving our Lord.

By God's grace, in 2023 we were able to knock on all the doors of our neighborhood and the surrounding neighborhoods (to where we have church services). We plan on doing the same thing this year. Aside from that, I make it a point to talk to people about Christ when I take my boys to basketball practice. I'm able to witness to 5-10 people every week. Many times I feel like it is not making an impact, but the Lord continues to give me the strength to shine His Light. About a month ago, I was approached by a man (David Salazar) whom I've witnessed to on a couple of occasions. He told me that he has been observing me for a while and is amazed that I keep witnessing without giving up. He also told me that he has an evangelical church background but has not attended church for several years now. I took this opportunity to explain the grace of God to him. My salvation in Jesus Christ, the eternal justification that I possess is what propels me forward. As I've written before, there are many people like this, who have had bad experiences in evangelical churches. Please pray for David. Pray that the Lord would give me the wisdom to minister to him accordingly.

It has been a great blessing to observe my wife, as she works with the kids in the children's ministry. God has blessed us with kids whose parents bring them faithfully. We are starting to see some results. Two of the children (Carlos and Sara) have started reading their Bibles faithfully. Another girl (Marjory) has learned to trust my wife. This is a big thing in Salvadoran culture, where the adults typically lie to kids. This is especially prevalent in a classroom setting. Marjory has noticed that my wife does not lie to her, and now takes her words at face value. Please pray that the Lord would continue to use my wife to minister to the kids. We have a burden for the salvation of Carlos, Sara, Marjory, and the other children that come to church.

Over the past several months, the Lord has placed in my heart to write a book. It will be a biography of Luis Castro (who was a mentor to me my first seven years in El Salvador). He has the most incredible testimony, as he was a missionary (for 16 years) to the Mayas in the Yucatan Peninsula. Hebrews 13:8 exhorts us to imitate the faith of preachers that are now in the presence of the Lord. I will interview his widow and his surviving children. My plan is to write this book in Spanish and English. In the end, I would like to go to our supporting churches, and many Spanish-speaking churches (in El Salvador and elsewhere) and give this book away. Please pray that the Lord continues to guide me as I write.

We maintain daily contact with Rosa, who is doing well at college. She is doing her best to balance her class load and many hours of work. We ask you to pray for her as she works toward her degree. We are watching our boys grow and develop their own interests. Joshua has taken an interest in Italian and has been studying the language each day. Caleb has begun to be the family barber. He has been cutting his own hair, he cut Joshua's hair today, and he may be cutting Steve's hair soon. Thank you for your prayers and support.

The Cernas

**Field Address:**  
Cesar Cerna  
Apartado 11  
Santa Ana, El Salvador

**Sending Church:**  
Greater Portland Baptist Church  
17800 SE Main St.  
Portland, OR 97233  
Phone: (503) 761-1136



**Baptist international Missions Inc.**  
P.O. Box 9  
Harrison, TN 37341  
Phone: (423) 344- 5050  
[www.bimi.org](http://www.bimi.org)