

# THE CERNAS NEWSLETTER



October 2018

Dear praying friends:

As we prepare for the final months of the year, we would like to share with you some of God's blessings in our lives and ministry. By God's grace, we were able to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church in a unique way, the Bible institute continues to produce laborers for God's glory, and our children are close to concluding another school year.

October 4<sup>th</sup> marked the ten year anniversary of our church. God gave us the privilege of ordaining Mauricio Escobar as a pastor in the church. We thank God for him, his wife Dora, and their four children. They have been members of the church for about eight years now. Mauricio has been in charge of the adult Sunday school class for about two years, and he has proven himself faithful. Roberto Nieto and Fabricio Bonilla (two Salvadoran pastor friends of ours) were present for the ceremony. Bro. Nieto preached all three Sunday services, and our church members felt greatly edified afterwards.

The day before Mauricio's ordination, Christine planned a special afternoon with Dora, his wife. We wanted Dora to know that without her support, Mauricio would not be as capable to fulfill God's calling on his life. Christine printed a large picture of Dora's family and presented it to her, along with encouraging words about caring for her family. Christine also gave her pages of verses that she had written out. These were special verses that could apply to Dora's life as a pastor's wife. Please pray for Dora as she starts her new role, and continues to care for her four children.

The Lord has answered your prayers for wisdom, as we patiently waited for the first pastor to be ordained. Please pray that within the next 2-3 years, Mauricio would be the main pastor of this congregation, and that God would use him also to train up other pastors and laborers. In other words, that we can reproduce ourselves in others regularly. In that way, we can focus on other churches being established. Who knows? Maybe within the next three years there could be two more pastors. Or within the next six years, there could be six more pastors.

The last quarter (October-December) of Bible institute has started well. We are offering two courses (Genesis and Romans). By God's grace, there are four men enrolled in classes, with the desire to better serve our Lord. Three of these men have preached in our church, and the other leads singing on Wednesdays. Please also pray that the Lord will replace those that graduate, as He blesses our evangelism and discipleship efforts.

As far as our family is concerned, our three children are very excited because school will be over in three weeks! This is their "summer" break, and they will not return to school until mid January. They are looking forward to the break, and so are we. Along with the church's anniversary, we celebrated Caleb's birthday. He was born the day after our first church service. We like to look at Caleb and see how he is growing, and compare this to our church's growth. It is a special time of year for us and we are grateful for God's blessings. Thank you for your prayers and support.

The Cernas

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