

# THE CERNA FAMILY

## MISSIONARIES IN EL SALVADOR

April 2018

Dear praying friends:

The Lord has been so faithful over the past few months, that we cannot help but remember what He says in 1 Thessalonians 5:24, **“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”** We especially have seen His faithfulness in our move to a new location, in the continued spiritual growth of many of the church members and in His provision for our needs.

In our last letter, we informed you that we recently moved to a new location for church services. Initially, we were concerned with how some of our members would be able to get to the new location. With the transition, we had to change our van route to bring some of the elderly members (who live close to the old location) to church. So, those who were accustomed to being brought to church were asked to find another way to come. By God’s grace, the transition to our new location has been smoother than we had anticipated. Those that were faithful in riding the van to church also have been faithful in coming to church on their own. In fact, in one case, God gave one of the members a car to bring his family to church!

Since the transition, we are seeing more couples faithfully involving themselves in church. José Escobar has been faithful for some years now. He frequently goes soul-winning with us and is even starting to preach at church. We have been praying for his wife Marlene to rededicate her life to Christ. By God’s grace, He has answered our prayers. Marlene has been coming to church often, is getting involved in serving, and is now part of the ladies Bible study group that Christine is leading. Also, Esaú and Ruth have been coming to church for years. For quite some time now, we have tried to motivate them to get more involved, but to no avail. However, now that we are in a new location, they both have shown servant’s hearts that we would not have expected. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness!

As you already know, the goal of this transition has been to save money (out of the church members’ tithes and offerings) to buy land for a church building. The members have been giving faithfully. On two occasions, relatives of church members, upon learning that we are preparing to buy land, have given significant offerings toward that purpose. So, over the past two months, we have saved significantly more money than what we saved this past year in the other location. If the Lord permits, it looks like we will be able to buy land sometime within the next calendar year. We are so humbled to see how God provides in expected and unexpected ways.

Our daughter Rosa (13) has taken over our Wednesday night nursery. We tend to have a smaller group that service. She recently offered to take that responsibility to help lighten the nursery worker’s load. Caleb (9) has been thinking through actions and consequences lately. The phrase he says often is “that kid isn’t going to turn out.” While it gives us a chuckle to hear our son say that, we are grateful that he is learning and growing. Joshua (6) is very excited that his 7<sup>th</sup> birthday is just a few days away. It is hard for us to believe that our “baby” is actually a big kid now. The challenges seem to grow as they get bigger. Please keep us in your prayers.

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)