

Beloved family in Christ,

Greetings and blessings. At this moment, we are in the winter season here at Costa Rica and it is rainy. It surprises me to see how God has programmed the rain. It rains once a day for about an hour and a half, with a lightning and thunder show and a downpour that has people wait under cover, until the rain stops. The few first times, I tried to outrun the rain, from the school office to our apartment, but end up soaked. I stopped doing that after my shoes were completely wet.

Almost every day it rains like this what comes next is a humidity that makes me sweat the moment I step outdoors. So basically, I am constantly drenched, if not by rain, by sweat. Either way, it is a blessing seeing how God created this ecosystem. All this is in God's hands, and it is a blessing knowing that if

He has control in the smallest details, we are truly blessed to be His creation. In Proverbs 3:6, it says, 'In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.' This means that when we trust in God and seek His guidance, He will guide us towards the best possible outcome.



Also, God has been good here at church and in the Academy. The New Testament Survey has finished with the students that completed the course, grateful for what they learned. The reviewing and grading of the course were done and there was no time to rest, because I had to prepare right away for the following course. Old Testament Survey 1st part: The Pentateuch. This course is



given by me, so I basically moved from preaching on Sundays to teaching the course. So, at this moment we are finished with the course and getting ready for the next course, Old Testament Survey part 2. So, from preparing the classes is wonderful and it is a blessing to be working alongside Pastor Edier. So, this is my focus for the moment, preparing the school platform for the following course. So, I am focused not only on my course, but in other technical necessities for the academy.

Another project Pastor Edier and myself started up is podcast called "Verdad en Gracia" (Truth in Grace). Our purpose on starting this up is

constructively criticizing certain beliefs or practices within Christianity that are considered excessive or too focused on man-made rules and regulations. Our goal is to engage in a respectful dialogue and provide evidence or arguments that question the validity or effectiveness of certain practices or the legalistic mindset. It is important to approach these discussions with an open mind and a willingness to hear different perspectives.

Some common areas of controversy within Christianity include the role of tradition, the interpretation of biblical texts, the emphasis on external behaviors over internal attitudes, and the balance between grace and works in salvation. It is important to research and understand the specific practices or beliefs you wish to challenge to provide a well-informed and thoughtful response. This is also a teaching tool for the Christian here in Costa Rica.



As for our church life. Silvia as well as I have been focused on teaching. I am teaching a discipleship course based on the events of the resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus Christ and its implications in our lives. Silvia, alongside three sisters that she is teaching to do the children's ministry, she has been very involved and loving the result of the children's ministry. This has helped Silvia as well as me in our stay here. In serving and in glorifying Christ, there is a contentment in our personal lives and the emotions that invade us. It has been two months since my mother-in-law has passed away and it is a blessing to see that Silvia is content and trusting God.

We have felt and seen the contentment in Him, there is no sadness and Silvia is looking to Christ. There is still a great deal to do as far as church goes. In the context that the church finds itself is interesting. It is a context where the church is making the transition from rural to city, so the mindset is precisely that. Making the transition. There is work to be done and I am working alongside Pastor Edier to understand this and to do ministry with this in mind. I really do see the great opportunity before us for the future church building where we will call home. The church is growing in fellowship, understanding of God's word, the great commission that we must complete and the new members that God will be saving here in Liberia, Costa Rica.



There is a lot to be done, but overall, our prayers have not changed. Please pray as we continue to move towards our long stay here at Costa Rica. We will be applying for the change of our visa status and are edging closer to



meeting all the requirements to stay here for long term. Please pray that when we do edge closer and closer to applying, that we can be approved without any problems.

In conclusion to this update, I want to once again, thank you for your prayers and support. Thank you for teaching us faithfulness, thank you for your participation in the gospel. Like I said there is a great deal to be done here and I feel the responsibility first to God, in glorifying His name to all of you. Because you know our desire with all of you, knowing that we are a body and the work we do together for His glory. We are all doing this together and we will continue to do so and in that I rejoice. God bless you family, big hug to all of you and keep pressing forward in Christ.

With Love in Christ,

Pastor Fernando Rocha and Silvia

