

MINISTRY UPDATE



BELOVED FAMILY IN CHRIST

Warm greetings and abundant blessings to each of you! We hope this message finds you thriving.

It is always a true joy to connect and share the incredible ways God is working among us as we serve and spread the gospel here in Costa Rica.

There is so much to celebrate—exciting developments and countless reasons to rejoice as we witness the Lord moving powerfully through our ministry. Being a part of what God is doing here fills our hearts with gratitude and amazement, and we are thrilled to bring you along on this journey of faith and transformation.

We are deeply grateful for the Lord's continued guidance and provision as we press forward in ministry and daily life. The journey has been filled with both challenges and blessings, and we recognize how God's hand has faithfully directed each step. Our hearts overflow with thankfulness for the support, encouragement, and prayers from all of you, who walk alongside us. As we share these updates, we invite you to celebrate God's goodness and join us in prayer for the ongoing work He is accomplishing here.

IMMIGRATION PROCESS





We are in the final steps of submitting our immigration papers. The Lord has blessed us by bringing a knowledgeable lawyer into our lives, who has also helped other churches arrange their paperwork to receive missionaries. He assures us that the laws are not against us and sees no reason why we should not be granted temporary residence, which could eventually become permanent. He has requested permission for a ten-year stay, and if immigration grants this, it would be wonderful. If not, we will receive the maximum allowable time with the opportunity to renew after the expiration date on the first permission. Please pray that the process is finalized by the 30th, giving our lawyer sufficient time to gather the necessary documents and find favor.

Discouragement sometimes arises as we try to plan our future without knowing if we can remain in the country. We have surrendered this uncertainty to the Lord, trusting Him to guide our lives and ministry. Our commitment is to continue serving here, and after the lawyer explained the law to us, it is possible for our commitment to be very long-term.

CHURCH PLANT EFFORTS



We are taking the first steps in planting a new church, working diligently with families and preparing local leadership. This church plant is a ministry of our church Iglesia Bautista Arraigados, alongside Pastor Isaac Santamaria and Pastor Jeff Harrington. I have been encouraged by the pastoral body to lead this effort, and we are planning programs and conferences focused on evangelism and leadership development. Two young men have enrolled in the Academy for leadership training, even though they have already graduated from a bible program. Their goal is to gain a deeper understanding of ministry leadership, church order, salvation, and worship. They are still learning, and it is a privilege to help them grow as I help them understand serving in our church plant. Other men are also participating in discipleship, and everyone is looking forward to the church plant. We are planning several evangelistic services and preparing our fellowship group to meet in homes. We pray that the Lord will provide a centrally located home in Puriscal so that this group can eventually become a church. Our fellowship group is growing rapidly, filling our home, and we have opened another day for fellowship service. We hope that Lord willing, within a year to an year and half, we will officially have a new church. We trust God's timing and ask for prayers for this church plant.

MARRIAGE MINISTRY



In addition to our efforts with the church plant, we are actively engaged in supporting marriages within the congregation. Currently, I am working with four couples who have reached out for marital counseling. It has been a wonderful and rewarding experience to walk alongside these marriages, guiding them toward Christ and helping them strengthen their communication. Addressing the challenges these couples face is truly a blessing, and I am grateful for the opportunity to serve them in this way. May God bless all the marriages in our church. Looking ahead, we plan to host a marriage conference to further support couples in their journey together. The marriage ministry is progressing slowly but surely, and we are considering establishing a monthly couples' service to provide ongoing encouragement and fellowship. Although this ministry is in its initial phase, it quickly grew as couples sought assistance and guidance in their marriages. Please continue to pray for these couples and for the future of our marriage ministry as we seek to honor Christ in every aspect of our service.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY AND CONFERENCES



We recently had the privilege of hosting Wayne and Tane Martin for a visit, which was a true blessing for our congregation. Their presence brought encouragement and strengthened our fellowship. During their time here, Tane also came down to teach a women's conference, a significant event attended by 53 women. The conference provided an opportunity for the church to come together and grow, as my wife and other sisters taught and served. The women were deeply blessed, happy, and encouraged by the teachings and the sense of community.

Tane Martin, did an excellent job, and it was uplifting to see Wayne Martin. I was able to spend time with Wayne, discussing future ministry opportunities and sharing about our work in Christ. We attended Sunday service together, caught up, and exchanged insights about ministry, leaving us mutually encouraged.

The women's ministry continues to flourish and grow, with plans for future conferences. Lord willing, this event will be repeated next year. All is in God's hands, and we trust Him to guide the ministry according to His will. Please pray for the future ministry opportunities that arise and for the ongoing opportunity to serve here in Costa Rica.

SYLVIA'S HEALTH UPDATE



At this time, Silvia is undergoing treatment and taking prescribed medication. She still needs to complete additional tests. The doctors have explained that this process will take time, it is not something that can be resolved immediately. Their current approach is to control the situation as best as possible. For now, she is on a three-month treatment plan, after which she will return for further evaluation. The main point to emphasize is that, although the biopsies are not cancerous, there remains uncertainty about the unobservable area, which continues to be a source of concern.

Surgery has not been ruled out, though it is something both Silvia and her doctors wish to avoid. The goal is to manage her condition with treatment, as the doctors work with the information available to them. Encouragingly, there is no swelling or tissue overgrowth in her endometrial system, and her current condition is under control. We are waiting for further results from the upcoming exams and trusting that time will provide more clarity.

Throughout this process, Silvia remains encouraged and steadfast in her faith, focusing on Christ rather than her circumstances. I continue to support and encourage her, even as I find myself more anxious than she is. My love for her motivates me to hope for the best possible outcome.

PROBLEMS WITH OUR HEALTH INSURANCE

Unfortunately, we have encountered significant difficulties with our health insurance. We were unaware at first, but the plan we had contracted turned out to be inadequate for our needs, only covering emergencies and not the essential treatments and procedures Silvia required. As a result, our savings have been heavily depleted. I took the steps to cancel the policy, as I paid only for six months, but to my surprise, they charged me automatically 1,300 dollars on my card. Without my consent and now I am in fighting to get a full refund as they are only trying to refund me 40%. It is a nightmare. We have since canceled that insurance and are currently in between providers, leaving us temporarily without coverage and short on funds.

We ask for your prayers as we search for a new insurance plan and navigate this challenging period. The costs associated with Silvia's medical care have been high. Thankfully, we had some savings to help cover the expenses of her biopsies and initial doctor visits. However, our insurance did not help with most of these costs, covering only emergency visits at \$120 per appointment. This financial setback has been difficult, but we know God knows our needs and are praying for this situation.

CONTENTMENT



"AND HE HAS SAID TO ME, 'MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR POWER IS PERFECTED IN WEAKNESS.' MOST GLADLY, THEREFORE, I WILL RATHER BOAST ABOUT MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY DWELL IN ME." 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9 14

In closing, my heart is overwhelmed with the goodness of the Lord. Navigating the complexities of legal residency, the frustrations of insurance, and the quiet anxieties of Silvia's health has been a journey that consistently leads me back to the cross. Every obstacle has served as a reminder that I am not the one in control, and that is a beautiful reality. Seeing our fellowship group in Puriscal outgrow our meeting space and serving the marriages within our congregation confirms that the Lord is indeed moving powerfully in Costa Rica. I am deeply moved by your unwavering support and your commitment to stand with Silvia and me. Even though we face the unknown regarding Silvia's continued treatment, we are not discouraged. We have seen God provide through the wisdom of a kind lawyer and the peace of a negative biopsy result. We move forward with total confidence that He who began this good work will be faithful to complete it, and we are honored to have you as partners in ministry. Thank you.

**With Love in Christ,
Pastor Fernando Rocha**