

Rocha Family: Ministry Update



BLESSED FAMILY OF FAITH,

I hope all of you are doing well. Silvia and I are deeply grateful to the Lord for each of you. It is a great joy to write to you in Christ and share what God is doing in our ministry, in our family, and in our church here in Costa Rica. We are thankful for the encouragement we have in Christ and for the privilege of serving together as co-laborers in the gospel. The Lord continues to remind us that ministry is never meant to be done alone, but in fellowship, unity, and mutual encouragement as we labor side by side for His glory.

“For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.” (1 Corinthians 3:9, NIV)

Church Plant Progress

We are very encouraged by what God is doing through our fellowship group as we continue to look toward planting a church in the area where we live. Our church, Iglesia Bautista Arraigados (Rooted Baptist Church), is united in this effort. The pastors are in agreement, and it has been a blessing to receive their support and encouragement as I take the lead in this church plant.



I am thankful that I am not serving alone, but alongside two other men with whom I can make decisions and move forward in wisdom.

The church has also been fully behind this work. We have been evangelizing in the streets and getting to know people in the community. Through these efforts, the Lord is opening doors for an important outreach opportunity in July.

Upcoming Evangelistic Sports Outreach

In July, CBC Vallejo will be coming to help us host an evangelistic sports ministry event. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite the community in, share the gospel, and let people see who we are as a church.

This outreach is growing out of our fellowship group, which includes the families helping to form the future church plant. It has been encouraging to see everyone involved and willing to do what is needed to make this event happen.

The event will take place in downtown Puriscal, the central area that connects many surrounding communities. Because this is a public community event, we are working through the proper channels to receive permission from the mayor's office.



One of the brothers in our church, who is an architect that works closely with the local government, is helping with all of the necessary steps so that everything can be done properly and in order.

Some of the outreach efforts connected to this event include:

- Passing out flyers in town during the week.
- Speaking with families and inviting children to participate.
- Organizing registration for a soccer tournament on one day.
- Organizing registration for a volleyball tournament on another day.

This event is beginning to take shape, and we would appreciate your prayers as this church plant continues moving forward at a steady and solid pace.

Life in the Church

Our church is united, and we are thankful for the fellowship the Lord has given us. We have had several meetings with leaders, with the men, and with the women of the church.



It has been encouraging to pray together and seek the Lord for the future of the church and for our families.

Each week we continue to receive new visitors. It is a joy to meet new families and watch the church welcome them warmly. At times, the church is so full that some people must stand in the back because there is no more room to sit. It is truly a blessing to see the unity of the church and the way the gospel is being preached and received.

We have also been blessed by ongoing baptisms over the past two weeks. It is wonderful to see people publicly confirming their faith in Christ. This has been a great encouragement to us in the life of the church.

The Academy

The academy is continuing to move forward. The teachers are doing well in their classes, and I have become more involved in the area of online promotion. Much of my time has been spent learning how to use Facebook and Instagram more effectively and trying to understand the basics of online marketing for the academy.

This has been a learning experience for me. The technical side takes time, and sometimes I find myself spending hours trying to understand how everything works. Still, I do not see this as a complaint, but as a new opportunity to serve Christ in an area that is new to me.

I am also learning that communication in Costa Rica is often centered around Instagram and WhatsApp. Because of that, I have been reaching out to pastors and leaders through messages and calls rather than only through in-person visits. While visiting in person is always valuable, many of them are busy with work and responsibilities, so WhatsApp has proven to be a useful way to stay connected.

There is still some structure to work out in the academy's promotional efforts, but things are moving in a positive direction. We currently have 15 students continuing with us this year, and I am already praying for next year's class and for new first-year students to enroll.

Family Update

Silvia and I are doing well. Her treatment will be ending soon, so we will be returning to the doctor for more studies to see how she is doing. On the medical side, there are still some changes and discomforts she is experiencing, but everything remains manageable. Spiritually, she is doing very well.

We are deeply thankful for your prayers for Silvia. She is encouraged, focused, and actively involved in ministry. She is discipling several women and is also preparing to serve in our hospitality ministry at church. She has put together a plan for welcoming newcomers, along with brochures and a team of brothers and sisters who will help greet visitors, speak with them, and gather their contact information. As pastors, we have been very encouraged by what the Lord has placed on her heart.

At home, we are doing well. We pray together and spend time together, and that has been a great help to both of us. I love my wife deeply, and it is a blessing to walk alongside her, pray with her, and remind her that we are facing these things together.



Visit from My Mother

It was also a blessing to have my mother come visit us. She is now 74 years old, and it was a joy to spend two weeks together. She is doing well overall, though she is more delicate now. She has diabetes, and doctors are continuing to monitor a tumor they had previously found. At this time, it is not causing any major concern, but they are keeping an eye on it.

She is taking very good care of herself, eating carefully, staying active, and following a strict routine. In fact, she walked so well during her visit that we got tired before she did. That was an encouragement to me. She left strengthened and encouraged after spending time with us, attending church services, and meeting many of the brothers and sisters here.

Immigration Update

Please also continue praying for our immigration status. Our lawyer has been doing an excellent job, and immigration has now told him that we should receive a response in two to three months rather than waiting a year and a half. That is a great encouragement.

Please pray that the response will be positive. Our lawyer is confident and willing to continue fighting for us so that we may remain here long-term in Costa Rica.

Closing

Thank you again for your love, your support, and your faithful prayers. We are filled with joy in Christ as we see all that He is doing in the midst of us. He has been kind to sustain us, encourage us, and allow us to witness His hand at work in the church, in the ministry, and in our home. Your support has been a true blessing to us, and your prayers are deeply needed as we continue to labor in the work the Lord has entrusted to us. Please continue praying that we would remain humble, faithful, and steadfast, keeping our eyes fixed on Christ and seeking His glory in all things.

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.” (Romans 12:12)

May the Lord continue to strengthen and encourage each of you as well. Let us press forward in Christ with joy, with confidence in His promises, and with a renewed desire to serve Him faithfully until He comes. We love you all very much. God bless you, and we will be in touch soon.

**Love in Christ,
Pastor Fernando Rocha**