



MINISTRY UPDATE



Pastor Fernando Rocha • Costa Rica



TOGETHER IN THE GOSPEL

Proclaiming Christ with passion

Salutations and blessings,

Beloved brethren, God bless you. I hope you are all doing well. I am grateful for the opportunity to share how the Lord has been working here in Costa Rica since our last update. Silvia and I are doing well and feel greatly encouraged. Over the past weeks, the Lord allowed us to participate in several ministry opportunities, including a marriage conference, sports outreach, a church service, discipleship, and a youth camp.

These activities were carried out through the collaboration of churches in Costa Rica and visiting teams from the United States, including Community Bible Church of Vallejo and Grace Bible Church of Roseville. It was a blessing to serve alongside brothers and sisters in Christ, many of whom we have known and loved for years, as well as to build new relationships in the Lord.

Marriage Conference

The visiting team arrived on Friday, July 3, and on Saturday we held a marriage conference. We studied what marriage is meant to be according to Scripture, how Christ should govern our homes, and how husbands and wives are called to fulfill their roles in Him.

We had a wonderful turnout, with 23 married couples in attendance. The couples were edified through the teaching of God's Word, and it was a blessing to hear Pastor Greg and Pastor Robert Vega teach on marriage centered on Christ. Everyone left encouraged, and God's name was glorified.

Sports Ministry Outreach

On Sunday we worshiped together, and on Monday we began our sports ministry outreach with a soccer tournament.

During the event, brothers and sisters shared the gospel throughout the park, spoke with people, and invited them to hear the Word being preached. A brother from our local church also shared his testimony.

On Tuesday we held a volleyball outreach. Children and youth participated, and once again the gospel was shared clearly. It was moving to see not only the young people listening, but also many people sitting nearby on the park benches paying attention as the testimony and gospel message were shared. We prayed together and finished the tournament encouraged as a church, thankful for the opportunity to do this again next year.

Preparing for the Church Plant

On Wednesday we held a trial church service to test the logistics for the future church plant. We worked through the setup of chairs, tables, and the community center space that we plan to rent next year.

Beginning in August, we plan to hold Wednesday Bible studies there. Our desire is to invite people from the community, share the gospel, and begin building toward a regular church service next year. This was an important and serious step forward, and although there is still much to do, we are grateful to see the Lord guiding us in the right direction.

Youth Camp

On Thursday we prepared for youth camp, which took place over three days: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The camp was held in a cold and rainy area of Costa Rica, a reminder of the country's many microclimates. One area can feel hot and humid, while an hour uphill can feel like winter.

The first night was especially cold, but the youth loved the experience. The teams from Vallejo and Roseville served in many ways: teaching, leading games, helping with worship, serving food, and assisting wherever needed.

Altogether, six churches served together for the glory of God. It was a blessing to see everyone using their gifts to serve the Lord and care for the youth. On Saturday evening, we closed the camp, said our goodbyes, and trusted that, Lord willing, God will bring us together again for future ministry.

Personal Encouragement

During the camp, Silvia and I also had the blessing of sharing our wedding anniversary with Jeff and Vilma from Roseville Bible Church, who have the same anniversary date. We celebrated with a cake and enjoyed being surrounded by our family in the faith. Because July often brings ministry opportunities, it is not the first time we have spent our anniversary serving alongside others. Although we have not yet celebrated privately, we are thankful to be together, to have Christ, and to rejoice in 22 years of marriage. We love one another, and we are grateful for the example of marriage in Christ that the youth were able to see.



22 years
**OF OUR UNION
IN CHRIST**









Discipleship and Local Ministry

Beyond these events, much of our ongoing ministry continues through discipleship, meeting with couples, praying with families, serving in the church, and caring for the flock God has placed before us.

Our hearts are deeply invested in this work. We are spending time with young men and women, sharing the gospel, answering their questions, and helping prepare them for a life of service to Christ. It is a joy to see their desire to know, love, and serve the Lord.

Training Future Leaders

It is a privilege to pass on what we have learned through years of ministry and to work alongside Pastor Isaac and Pastor Jeff as a team.

We remain in close communication as we oversee different areas of ministry and seek to train the men God has placed before us.

At the moment, three men are being discipled and trained with pastoral ministry in mind. Next year, Lord willing, we plan to add four more men to this leadership development group. Our desire is to create a strong residency-style environment where we can teach the responsibilities of pastoral ministry and prepare men for faithful service.

Academy Update

The Academy is currently on break. Students are still completing and submitting homework, and classes are scheduled to begin again in August.

During this time, I have been focusing on learning and developing the marketing side of the Academy. This is still a new area for me, and I am learning as I go. I am also beginning to work on promotional efforts for next year, with the goal of inviting and enrolling new students.

Prayer Requests

Thank you for your prayers and support. We are deeply grateful. Please continue to pray with us in the following areas:

·Silvia's health: Silvia has started a new six-month treatment and is taking medication. After the treatment period, additional tests will show how she is doing. Please pray for strength, comfort, and endurance as she experiences discomfort, fatigue, sleepiness, and other symptoms.

·Our immigration status: We are waiting on our temporary residency paperwork. Our lawyer, who is also a brother in Christ, has encouraged us and is continuing to help us through the process. Please pray that the paperwork will be approved soon, Lord willing.

·Transportation for ministry: We are praying about the future possibility of selling our current car and purchasing a more reliable vehicle for ministry.

Transportation is an important tool here in Costa Rica.

·Car repairs: Our Honda is still running, but we are facing transmission problems. We also need to complete the required annual mechanical and emissions inspection so the car can legally circulate. Please pray that the inspection goes well and that the transmission issue is not as serious or costly as it could be.

Gratitude

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers and close to your hearts. Silvia and I are deeply grateful for your love, encouragement, faithful giving, and continued support. Your partnership reminds us that the work of the gospel is not carried by one person or one church alone, but by the whole body of Christ serving together in unity. Whether you pray, give, encourage, visit, teach, or serve in another way, the Lord uses each act of faithfulness to strengthen His church and advance the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ. We know that Christ is in control and sovereign over every detail, and this gives us courage to continue serving with joy, even when the work is demanding or the way ahead is uncertain.

We are especially encouraged by Paul's words in Philippians 1:5, where he gives thanks "because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now." May this truth encourage all of us to remain steadfast, united, and willing to labor side by side for the gospel. As we continue together, may the Lord deepen our love for one another, renew our strength, and keep our eyes fixed on Christ, trusting that every faithful effort offered for His glory has eternal value. God bless you, and we look forward to sharing more with you soon.