

## Zelaya's – October 2024

- Family
  - Doing well.
  - Homeschool year has started. A tutor comes 3 or 4 times a week to help with Lucas and Lia. The tutor is the wife of one of the MEDA graduates. She was an intern from California when she met the MEDA student who she later married. Lori Montoya helps with Levi and Logan.
    - Lucas – 6<sup>th</sup> grade – 11 years old (2013)
    - Lia – 4<sup>th</sup> grade - 8 years old (2016)
    - Levi – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – 6 years old (March 1, 2018)
    - Logan – K - 4 years old (July 28, 2020)
  - Zelaya monthly financial support level is good at present. A church in Roanoke, Virginia where Kimberly's brother Jonathan attends and whose pastor was a classmate of Carlos at Masters Seminary, has added support for Edwin and Kimberly.
  - Currently living in their original, small house while they raise funds to build on the MEDA property. They currently have about \$70,000 towards the \$150,000 that they estimate they will need. So far, they have successfully transferred a portion of the MEDA property to their name, and this month received the necessary permits for construction to begin. They have decided to start building and go as far as their current funds will enable them in order to not let inflation erode the buying power of their funds. When they get to the end of their funds, they will decide whether to pause until additional funding is available or to borrow funds to keep construction going forward. The goal is to get into a livable portion of the new house sooner rather than later in order to start renting their existing small house and generate an income stream to help finish paying for the new house.
  - All four kids are wrapping up their soccer teams for the season. Kimberly became the "soccer mom", continually delivering the kids to the appointed places as needed.
  - Next summer, the Zelaya's are hoping to make a U.S. trip to visit supporting churches.
- MEDA
  - Edwin's role at MEDA is decreasing slightly as his responsibilities at Betania church increase. Edwin teaches 1 module each April at the Nogales, Mexico campus, 2 modules each January and February at the Honduras campus, and 1 module a year through the online venue (Mexico and Honduras modules are 2 consecutive weeks on campus while the online module is once a week for 15 weeks).
  - MEDA is hoping to open a new campus in Cuba. Carlos is waiting for a visa to Cuba so he can teach at a conference there. Colombia might be another campus location in the future.
- Iglesia Betania
  - The church is growing. There have been 6 new families in the past year. The church affirmed a new elder recently, giving them a total of 4 elders now (Raul, Carlos, Edwin, and the new one, Jimmy Matute)
  - The Young Marrieds group at Betania, which Edwin and Kimberly lead, has grown this past year from 17 to 22 couples regularly attending for Bible study, discussion, questions, and prayer every other Sunday night. The couples are growing in parenting and in their marriages.
  - Edwin is in charge of training 3 men for new leadership roles (elders/deacons). Those men are also taking a module at MEDA.
  - A 4<sup>th</sup> year MEDA student and his wife, Antonio and Selena, who are from Ecuador, are leading the High School group at Betania and doing well. The group has grown from 5 to about 30 in the past year. The church has hired him for two years following his graduation (I think that is this December) to continue to lead the High School group.
  - Edwin continues to lead a Men's ministry, meeting for breakfast and Bible study on the first Saturday of each month. About 30 men are attending.
  - Pastor Raul's health continues to be very up and down. This past summer, he was able to accompany a MEDA trip to Colombia and speak at a conference. However, for the past month, he has remained bedridden. He remains in good spirits but currently his health is very low and care is becoming more of a challenge for his family.
  - Edwin and Kimberly are in the process of planning for a ministry trip to Colombia during March 2025. They hope to take 5 couples from Betania to lead a marriage conference. They are raising funds for travel, conference supplies and expenses.

- Prayer

- For salvation of the Zelaya children – Lucas, Lia, Levi, and Logan.
- For the project to build a house. It will need a lot of funding.
- For Raul's health.
- For the Colombia trip in March – preparation and funding.
- For homeschooling of the children.