

September 5, 2022

Dear Friends,

We pray this newsletter finds you doing well and enjoying the richness of life that is ours through Christ Jesus. We are most grateful to each of you for your continued support which allows us to minister to the lovely people of Costa Rica. Below is a brief (relatively) update on our ministry and lives during the past two months. We hope you enjoy it!

Celebrating an adoption. It's been 18 long months since we had our last adoption. So, when we received word of Betzi's adoption last month, we were ecstatic. Many of you who have been to the Children's Home over the past four years have met Betzi. She came to live with us when she was only 15 days old. It has been our privilege to watch her grow into a precious little girl and now she has a beautiful mother and father. We could not be happier. A quick reminder that we are sharing pictures of Betzi and her family with you for your enjoyment. Please do not post this picture on any social media. Thank you!



Sports Festival. We held our first annual sports festival with the Methodist School in Sabanilla on August 5th. Basketball, soccer, track and gymnastics teams from the school came to the Home to compete with our children. The games were friendly with everyone winning. We ended the day with a rowdy game of dodgeball. It was so much fun. We cannot wait until next year!



Hogar Metodista. This summer it was our joy to receive a few mission teams at the children's home. These teams were able to completely renovate the inside and outside of both the girl's and boy's homes. Plus, they were able to refinish all the furniture, doors, cabinets, and tables. We are so grateful for each of the teams and the investment they made in the lives of the children and their homes. Thank you!

Parsonage in Guapiles. Over the summer, we also welcomed a few mission teams in Guapiles where the church is building a parsonage. No, we haven't finished the new church sanctuary quite yet. We have temporarily hit the pause button on the sanctuary long enough to finish the parsonage and then we will return to the sanctuary. Many of you who have been here have seen where pastor Daniel and his family have been living. With rainy season heavier than normal, adequate housing for him and his family became crucial. We are so grateful for all of the teams who have been working on the parsonage and for the churches who sent financial gifts to help buy the materials and pay the construction workers. Thank you!



New Sanctuary in Limon. Limon is Costa Rica's principal port city on the Caribbean coast. Although the church has had a presence in town for several years, a definite location was not established until recently. Since then the church has been meeting in a temporary structure which we hope to remodel and make much more suitable for long term use. The church's newly appointed pastor, Jeremy, just arrived in town and is excited to expand the outreach and ministry of the congregation as soon as possible. Please remember Jeremy and his family as they make the transition to Limon and for future plans of expansion on the church.



Seminary. Ray will be teaching a hybrid course next month at the Methodist seminary. This class will focus on the first half of Church History. He currently has over 60 students enrolled. Your prayers for Ray and all of the students are much appreciated as they retrace the beginnings of Christ's church and consider God's faithfulness through 1400 years of Church history.

Future Plans for the Children's Home. We have shared with many of you our need to have a separate home for our teens. We now have six teens age 13 and above and legally we should have the teens in a separate home. The government has been patient with us over the past few years. However, now we find that we must move forward on providing separate housing. We are looking at various options, one being the possibility of building a duplex on the third lot at the Children's Home. To do this we will need financing for the project as well as mission teams. Please join us in praying for direction and help with this project.

Mission Teams 2023. We have begun signing up mission teams for next year. We would love for you and your team to come and minister with us at one of many ministry locations. Please let us know if you or your church interested are in serving during 2023. Please contact: ray.zirkel@gmail.com.

Our Family. We want to thank each of you for your prayers and kind words at the passing of Ray's father. We were able to spend some time in Texas with Ray's family after the funeral before we returned to Costa Rica. In August, Sarah and Emma returned to Baylor University for Fall semester. Emma is in her Senior year and Sarah is in her second year of graduate school. Ray and I are most grateful for the opportunity we have to serve in Costa Rica and we are grateful to each of you who support us financially and make our ministry possible. Thank you.

In Christ's love,
Ray and Lidia

