

# Merry Christmas



## Prayer Requests:

- \* Souls Saved
- \* Church Planting
- \* Feeding Ministry
- \* Refuge Center
- \* Children's Home
- \* 15 Passenger Van
- \* Food Pantry

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## *We want to wish you Merry Christmas...*

from our home in Costa Rica to yours! As we celebrate the birth of Christ please remember there are those here that will be hearing this for the very first time. Over a year ago when we started working in Los Santos with the Ngäbe, we were surprised at how much they didn't know about God or the Bible. So we started from the beginning with creation and showed them Christ throughout God's Word! Many have been coming a whole year now and we are seeing adults as well as the older children trust Christ! The Gospel is presented multiple times a week! Pray for them as the Word of God planted in their hearts and minds begins to grow! This year we are seeing many new families come. Please understand the impact of realizing for the first time, this is why He came. This is why He was born!



## *A Year in Reflection for the Children's Home!*

God continues to bless the children's home ministry! Although it breaks our hearts when children leave; we are currently bursting at the seams. We have been working more closely with Ngäbe families so that they do not lose their children or can get them back if they have. Normally this danger arises because the children are sick and malnourished. It's simply a lack of provisions and not a lack of love. We work with them on getting food and maintaining their health. Our daughter Deborah accompanies them to doctor appointments and translates. Four of the children currently in our home are Ngäbe including Yeisel and Sergio, which were among our first Ngäbe children four years ago! What a blessing to have them return! In addition to these there has been the opportunity to help 17 other children in the past few months that were in crisis or emergency situations. We have also



had the privilege to host three families in our refuge house while getting them set up with a job, housing and most importantly the Gospel!

## *Hunger!*

Each year we pick a theme for our family. Last year that theme was hunger. We are surrounded by it. We wanted to help ease the hunger of many while creating in them and ourselves a new hunger. When feeding the hungry children they receive a Bible lesson and the Gospel each and every time. The adults ask for more Bible studies throughout the week and don't want them to end! They long for the lessons and songs! When we pull in the kids beg to have class rather than food. Of course they are hungry and for most of them this will be their only meal. But they are being filled in a way that food cannot. They are learning that we love them and God loves them too! He sent us to meet both their physical and spiritual needs. Many of them will die, and some did this past year, without their hunger being met. What if we had that intense desire to be fed by God's Word?

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## *Church Planting!*

As around 14,000 people are entering the zone to pick coffee we have noticed something interesting happening. People are calling that were here last year. Some have called us and we are coordinating Bible studies for the next four months that they are in this area. Others have called people from the church asking "Did they stay?" and "Is there still a church?". Thankfully the people were able to answer yes to both! You see most have experienced people come for a big day or a meeting but then never come back. Investing in the Ngäbe is so much more than that. It is and has to be our life now. The need is huge and more intense than any people group we have ever witnessed. Yes, we are here to give them the Gospel, teach and train! However, in order to do this we need to be part of their everyday lives.

## *What About Everyone Else?*

Please continue to pray for the church we started in Tres Rios. Here in Los Santos we have had several neighbors trust Christ! Praise God many have come to church and we are working with others in hopes that they will. Even our new bus driver and his family are now attending the services! We are reaching those around us and giving them God's word! When out in the town people are always telling others who we are and what we do. It's been just over one year and thankfully relationships have been built and trust is being established. Recently people have come to us as well asking how they can be a part! Praise God!!

## *Needs...*

Please pray for a family in our church. This last week their house caught on fire. All of their belongings were incinerated but praise God no one was hurt! The owner of their plantation has now moved them in with another family from our church. We pray that this change will be for the good. We were able to take them a supply of food and other necessities.



\*Please pray with us as we need to replenish the food pantry here. This food is used for emergency situations, the feeding ministry and refuge home.

\*With the increase in children we have had to reevaluate our vehicles. For the last four years we have had a **1994** 12 passenger van. However, it is to the point we are having to repair it every month just to keep it running. Please pray for this situation. We are praying for a 15 passenger van that is a little younger (year 2000).

## *Come and See!!!*

We have always invited people to come and see first hand what God is doing in Costa Rica! Come and meet the people, feed the hungry and share the Gospel!! We are scheduling groups for next year and getting everything on the calendar. If you would like to take a missions trip in 2015 please let us know!

## *Coming Soon...*

Our next prayer letter will be highlighting all the new and exciting plans we have for the upcoming year!! God is opening so many doors and after the first of the year several new opportunities will be in place! Please pray and watch for our next update!!

**Your Servants in Costa Rica,**

*Ryan, Lauri, Deborah, Rebecca, Daniel, Andrés, Yeisel, Karen, Maricel, Sergio, Sofia and Jamie.*