

THE SUDDETH FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

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Exalt God | Encourage Others | Evangelize the Lost



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Imagine if you were unable to read. We all know the importance of literacy. However, I have never deeply thought about the implications of, “What if **I** did not know how to read? What if every word and phrase I saw looked like the title above? What if I only saw letters put together without meaning?” So much of what we do on a daily basis depends on our ability to read and write. Sending and receiving a text message, reading a recipe to prepare a meal, reading God’s Word, and so much more depends on our ability to read and write.

Helping God’s People Stand on the Word of God

This reality became very evident for us a couple of Saturdays ago. While we were in the community of San Antonio with a group from our local church, I was teaching on how to study the Bible. After some time teaching, we divided into small groups, so that everyone could practice some of the methods I taught (using the handout I had provided). One group of older ladies told Emily and Ashley (good friends and fellow missionaries), “Just so you know, we cannot read.” Thankfully, the situation was handled with grace and wisdom, and the ladies were able to apply the things they were taught through listening to the Scripture and discussing the questions orally.



Clip and Vacilio (the pastor of the church in San Antonio) talking about the spiritual needs in the community.



The group from IBCV that went to San Antonio on October 30. Yes, Isaac is wearing a coonskin hat. :)



Isaac and Abby playing instruments after the teaching time.

One issue we have faced in the community of San Antonio is that there is much confusion about the Bible. Additionally, we have learned that in the past, others came to the community and taught things that are contrary to the Word of God. It all makes sense! If people are taught something but are unable to read and study the Bible to verify the teaching, the logical choice is to accept the teaching if they believe the person doing the teaching is trustworthy.

What do we do? First of all, we pray depending on God to work in ways we cannot. Second, we must teach the Bible accurately and faithfully. Third, we must build trust with the people - they need to know that we are teaching what the Bible says and that we want God's best for them. Therefore, fourth, we must teach both those who can read and those who cannot how to study, interpret, apply, and teach the Word of God correctly. All of this will take patience, perseverance, creativity, and a constant dependence upon the Lord.

Updates on IBCV

Overall, the ministry at IBCV is going well. The ability to use the movie theater continues to be a huge blessing for us. We are preaching through the letter of 1 Timothy, and that has been very good for our local church. We are also in the middle of another set of membership classes and will most likely have 12-15 new church members by the beginning of December.

We continue to pray about a permanent place for our church. As you know, we are very pleased with the movie theater. We have even thought and prayed, "Lord, perhaps we could use the movie theater for our services, and You could provide a smaller place we could use throughout the week for Bible studies, women's and men's meetings, children's activities, counseling, etc." All of this is in the Lord's hands, but we do ask that you continue to pray with us.

Of course, life and ministry have their challenges. There are several couples in our church that are still going through difficulties in their marriages. There are also some brothers and sisters who are battling discouragement and depression. Often times, we feel at a loss for words. What can we say? What can we do? Well, we can listen (not everyone expects us to solve their problems), we can pray, we can sit with them, etc. All of that is very true, and we need to remember it. Nevertheless, we do have the preaching of God's Word. God's Word is very powerful! Please pray we will do all things - including preaching - God's way for God's glory.

Family Update

We recently spent three weeks in the United States. Although it was a short trip, we were able to go to Tyler and Emilee's wedding (Tyler is our nephew), we were able to have Isaac's annual eye appointments (all of them went very well), and we were able to spend some nice time with family.

We returned to our home in Panamá on October 20, and we are thankful for God's grace and provision in our lives. On October 23, we celebrated our 17th wedding anniversary and are amazed at God's faithfulness and kindness to us. He is so good and is worthy of all honor and glory!

