

THE SUDDETH FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

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Exalt God | Encourage Others | Evangelize the Lost



The Value of Encouragement

“That we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.” These words from Paul in Romans 1:12 remind us that as followers of Christ we have the opportunity to cheer one another along through our mutual trust in Him. That is quite a privilege that we have!



We have to be very intentional in our encouragement. Of course, as a group of believers in a local church, we want to encourage each other. However, life can get busy at times. Encouraging others is an intentional act.

In our church here in Costa Verde, when we gather together on Sunday mornings for worship, we have two hours in a rented movie theater. Our time is limited, and our primary focus is intentional worship of God through Scripture reading, prayer, singing, and receiving the preaching of His Word.



At the same time, **we are constantly encouraging one another to encourage one another**. It’s just that the majority of our time encouraging one another happens throughout the course of the week, as we live our daily lives, outside of the context of the corporate worship service.

Because there is great value in encouragement, a recent activity was a special time for our church family. We were able to rent a camp for the day. We played games, sang together, had picnic lunches, and talked a lot. Days like this one are good for us as a church family. It’s good to be with other believers in a casual way. It’s good to talk to people and say more than, “Good morning. God bless you.” It’s good for families to make plans to get together. It’s good to schedule a meeting over coffee, so that there is more time to be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.



Family Encouragement

As a family, we were greatly encouraged to have Mary's parents, Philip and Joy, visit with us for a week. We had a great time with them, and it was good for them and for us that they were able to have a small glimpse into what our lives are like here in Panamá.

We were also greatly encouraged to have a friend, Todd Lint, visit us. Todd is a good friend who is also a pastor. This was Todd's fourth time to visit us, and he has been a blessing to us every time he has been here.



Mary, Isaac, Philip, & Joy at the Panamá Canal.



Todd & Isaac playing games.

Prayer Requests

- Please pray that we, as a church family in Costa Verde, will be intentional about looking for opportunities to mutually encourage one another in our faith.
- Please pray for our church as we have a special missions Sunday on March 27. Our focus will be *the role of the local church in missions*. We will also have some special small group meetings in the days leading up to March 27. Roy Seals, the director of Global Faith Mission Agency, and Jason Sneed, the worship pastor at Mile Straight Baptist Church, will be with us for this time.
- Please pray as we are planning to start a new membership class this month.
- Please pray that we, as a family, will continue to grow in our understanding of both the Spanish language and the Panamanian culture. We desire to be fruitful in our service to the Lord here in Panamá for as long as He allows us to be here.

Once again, thank you for praying for us and with us!