

THE SUDDETH FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

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Exalt God | Encourage Others | Evangelize the Lost



We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior. In our home we played a lot of Christmas music over the past month (we especially like songs by Nat King Cole), we ate a lot of food and sweets, we had some wonderful times with friends and fellow believers, we enjoyed worshiping with our church family, and we valued some family time.



Christmas Day 2022

Over the past few weeks we were able to receive four believers as members of our local congregation, Clip was able to perform his first wedding ceremony in Panamá, and Mary shared her salvation testimony during a Sunday morning service. While these things may not seem like huge milestones, they do remind us of God's plans and His faithfulness.

As a local church, we are still learning what it means to be a biblical congregation. Several people in our church are either new believers with little spiritual background or they are coming from contexts that are oftentimes based upon, at the best, biblical misunderstandings, or at the worst, a gospel that is altogether false (think prosperity gospel). Therefore, when people make the decision to become members of IBCV, it is an indication that we are spiritually maturing. Please don't misunderstand, our church has a long way to go, but we are encouraged at the signs of spiritual health.



From left to right: Luis, Rolando, Noelia, and Maxwell are the newest members of IBCV. Falco (far right) is praying for them and for the other members of our local congregation.

When we think about the marriage of Helen and Marlon, we have seen lives transformed by the gospel. Both are relatively new believers, and they desire to have a marriage that represents the relationship that Christ has with His church. They were both excited and proud to share their vows in front of their brothers and sisters in Christ and celebrate with them.



Clip praying with Helen and Marlon.

Mary giving her testimony of salvation accomplished at least two purposes, perhaps more. First, it allowed our church family to know her a little better. Second, her testimony served as an example of how to share the gospel in a way that is personal but actually contains the truths of the need for repentance of sins and belief in Jesus Christ. Our desire is that more people will begin to share their testimonies of salvation.

As an update, God has currently provided \$112,698 of the \$300,000 needed to purchase a property in Costa Verde for ministry use. **We are praying for God to do what only He can do, and that He would do it in a way that only He can receive the glory.**



Finally, our prayer is that you will have a Christ-centered 2023 that is filled with the incredible joy that is ours in Christ Jesus.

In Christ,

Clip, Mary, and Isaac Suddeth