

## THE SUDDETH FAMILY MINISTRY UPDATE

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Exalt God | Encourage Others | Evangelize the Lost



Dear Partners in the Gospel,

As many of you know, we currently rent a room in a local movie theater for our Sunday morning services. We are so glad to have a nice, comfortable, and affordable place where we can worship the Lord together. Complementing the Sunday worship services, we have recently begun **home groups** that are allowing us to spend quality time with other followers of Christ. Many of the people in our church do not come from Christian families, and they do not have Christian friends. As a result, the home groups provide opportunities to spend time with other believers, to talk about faith and life, and to pray together.

In order to lay a good foundation for the future, we decided to have all the groups go through a study called *Growing Together: discipleship in the local church*. We currently have over 40 people participating in four different home groups. There are three home groups meeting in different homes and one group that is meeting virtually (for those who cannot participate in person due to distance and/or work schedules). It has been encouraging to see people in our church open their homes, others facilitating the biblical conversations, and friendships developing.

Home groups have great potential to set a biblical trajectory for the future of our local church and for other churches that God would allow IBCV to start. *How?* Consider our mission and our vision. As a local church, we have intentionally defined our mission and our vision:

Our *mission* as a local church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Our *vision* as a local church is to send believers out from our local congregation to plant other local churches.

Our prayer is that the home groups will be a catalyst for helping us, as a local church and as individual believers, make disciples of Jesus Christ through the local church. Perhaps some of these home groups will lead to the establishment of biblical, local churches for the glory of God.



This photo is from one of the recent home group meetings in our home. We were still waiting on a few people to arrive, but we didn't wait to eat. :)

We focus on three purposes. (1) Spend time together. (2) Study God's Word together. (3) Pray together. We are seeing that each of these purposes is vital and necessary for us as believers.

## Prayer Requests & Praises

- **Praise.** The home groups have started very well.
- **Praise.** We are seeing friendships develop among the believers of the local church, and we are seeing believers growing in their faith.
- **Praise.** Isaac has had a good start to sixth grade, and Mary is enjoying teaching him.
- **Prayer Request.** A property that we can use for ministries in our area. We currently have a little over \$200,000 committed, and we praise the Lord for His provision. We continue to pray, search, investigate, and wait on the Lord. We know that He will provide in His way, in His timing, and for His glory.
- **Prayer Request.** The spiritual health and spiritual growth of IBCV and the establishment of other local churches.
- **Prayer Request.** We continue to work on establishing the Latin American Missions Society. We have made much progress. Please pray we can help local churches have a biblical understanding of the Great Commission and that we can help those same churches send men and women as missionaries.
- **Prayer Request.** Our spiritual growth, sanctification, and godliness.

We give thanks to the Lord for each of you who pray for us and for each of you who financially support the ministry in Panamá. It is truly an honor to partner with you in the gospel.

In Christ,

Clip, Mary, and Isaac