



The Rodriguez Family

Missionaries in Panamá

December 2011

Dear Pastor and Friends,

Merry Christmas from Panama! Our desire is for you to have a blessed Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. It's hard to believe that it's Christmas time and soon we will be welcoming in a new year. This year has gone by rather quickly and as we look back through 2010 we are grateful for all that the Lord has given to us and for all that He has done in and through this ministry in Panama. We are especially grateful for your faithful prayers and support through these financially difficult times. We always are praying for you, your family and your ministry.

Salvations and Baptisms! These last couple of weeks we have seen the hand of the Lord working in our church. **Six of our faithful teens realized that they were not saved and decided to get things right with God. We were also excited to witness the baptisms of two families** and we are eager to see what the Lord has in store for both families. **Looking back through 2011 we have had the opportunity to witness almost 500 people that put their trust in Christ.** When we first started the church, it was just my family going visiting and winning souls but as we try to fulfill the great commission now six years later **we have a group of a little over 20 that join us every Saturday** to spread the gospel and invite people to church.

Christmas Time! Christmas time is a special time for us being as it's when we celebrate the greatest gift ever given to us...JESUS. But it's also a special time because it's our time to give to others. In a few days we will be having our Christmas party for our New Life Feeding Center (Manna). **This year we are doing something different...we are going to McDonalds!** For you and me that does not really sound like anything special because we've been to McDonalds more than we can count. But to someone who has NEVER been to a McDonalds it's something very special. The majority of the children that will be attending the party have NEVER been to McDonalds and they are overflowing with excitement. We will be having games, face painting, food, cake, piñata, and a gift bag for each child. We also plan on doing something special for our two cooks who give their time (with little compensation) to this ministry and to these children. **We would like to give a special thank you to New Life Baptist Church for your sponsorship and for Manna Int'l.**

Summer Time! Classes are just about out for the summer and the Christmas spirit is in the air. Some of the summer activities that we are preparing for include: Teen Camp, a nationwide Fires of Evangelism Conference, Vacation Bible School, and, on a lighter note, the Softball League. We are looking forward to each activity as we continue to occupy til' Jesus comes.

A Little Set-Back! Our church bus has broken down for which we need \$600 to get it up and running again. Although at first we thought that this was going to be a set-back but it really hasn't at all. Our attendance instead of dropping has stayed the same and has even increased with visitors in each service. Our Nissan Sentra (a 5-passenger vehicle which we fit 5+) and a 10-passenger van (which we fit 10+) are bearing the brunt of the work but we are grateful for the faithfulness of God's people and for the work that the Lord is doing. Please pray that we can get the bus fixed and running soon.

We thank the Lord for the work that He continues to do through us in Panama. We also thank the Lord that you have allowed us to represent you and your church in Panama. We would like to share some requests and needs with you and ask you and the church family to help us pray for these needs and requests.

1. **A bigger family car**
2. **\$600 to fix the bus**
3. **The Lord to show us some land or a building where we can build or buy for the church**
4. **Spiritual growth in the members of the church**

Once again, thank you for your faithful prayers and support. God bless!

Sincerely Your Servants for Christ,

Rafael, Tracy, Evelyn, Emily, and Rafael Jr. Rodriguez