

Jim and Phyllis Childress

Missionaries to Panama since 1976

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Dear Faithful Rope Holders,

Greetings from Panama where missionary life and work continues to happen in a variety of forms. For example:

1] We have moved into our new apartment with a lot of organization yet to be finalized. People from three churches came to help us move much of "our stuff" from the old house to the new annex. I am presently working on transferring my library and office to the new residence. The problem is we have less space than before. That means some stuff has to go, thus we will be having a garage sale before long.

We have already had a national missionary and a family from the U. S. share our new two-bedroom apartment. Also, our Panama missionary to Ecuador will be staying with us in September for ten days as he is coming to process some legal work. We will have another missionary couple and a group from our sending church with us in October.

2] I had plans to use the old house for a couple of years, but the contractor informed us the underground electrical feed to the house will not support both. We have decided to dismantle the old house, salvaging what we can for future ministry use. We are restoring the kitchen cabinets, removing decades of layers of paint (white, cream, blue and orange). After we re-move the useable things and strip the walls, we will seek a permit to take down the basic structure of the termite damaged 125-year-old house.

3] I am also working on a design to build sanctuary benches that will be shipped in sections to be assembled on site. These benches will serve in churches on the coast or new start-up works in rural communities. The leg structure and seating slats will be made from roof or floor rafters while baseboard and window frames will be used as stabilizing mechanisms and back supports. I have set a goal of 80 benches.

4]. The building project in Agua Dulce has been a challenge to begin construction with red tape plus the change of administrations as many government officials are being replaced, including notaries. Pastor Dominguez reported that we are one step closer to getting the title to the property officially registered. The church plans have been approved and construction will

begin once the title is registered at the national registry.

This church is worthy of our investment of time and assistance. The church previously met at a two-story house where the pastor's family lived on the second floor. To save money for construction, the pastor moved to a small house and a lady in the church moved in with her daughter and offered her house for church services.

Another family donated \$5,000 toward the construction. The congregation really does want a Bible preaching church in their town. Pray for pastor Elvis Dominguez as he leads the church he started 13 years ago.

5] This weekend the church in Veracruz celebrated our 34th anniversary. Two of our six missionaries were special speakers during the three-day event. One is the Vasquez family, with whom we have worked since 1995 when Jorge and Anayansi went to Belen (a coastal village visited and named by Christopher Columbus in 1502) as national missionaries with a baby several months old.

Jorge's wife found out she has a mas considered to be pre-cancerous. Going through the socialized medical program she would probably not be treated before the situation would become full blown cancer. Doctors in our churches advised her to seek attention at a private clinic. When she told the doctor she could not pay the fee, he dropped the price to \$3,600. We have already given \$1,000 and hope to raise more. This situation has been developing for some time and her quality of life is now suffering. Please pray for Anayansi Vasquez.

6] Our church is growing in more ways than one. Pastor Federico and his wife now have a newborn son in the family. We have had several churches provide money for the new roof of their annex (21 x 16 feet). During the anniversary celebration the church voted to provide the additional electrical work so the family can use the additional space right away.

Pastor Johniel's wife gave birth to their fifth son hours after the first evening service of our anniversary celebration. Shela delivered via cesarean procedure within hours of arriving at the hospital.

Neither mother nor her newborn were part of the 115 in attendance Sunday evening at the close of the celebration.

We are very thankful for our faithful rope holders who support our ministry through prayer and sacrificial giving.

Jim