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Persuading | Proclaiming | Preparing | Planting

"With the gospel and the exposition of His word"
(Acts 19:8-10)

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"But to the Son He says: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom." (Heb 1.8)

Dear pastors, churches and friends,

A year full of experiences ends under the hand of grace of our sovereign God. We only have gratitude for everything He does in our lives, even those that are difficult to face. I don't know what your year was like, but the truth is that absolutely nothing was outside of God's control and purposes. Among those purposes are you who faithfully accompany us in our call to ministry, and you do so with your faithful prayers and constant support. Thank you so much!

Planting | our local mission

God continues to form his people in the area where we are ministering, we had a baptism of a couple who knew the Lord and believed him to be their only Savior of their lives. The group of believers is drawing closer to the Lord, some are still struggling with their struggles and advancing in Christian maturity.

As for the building, remember we were renting a space at the Civic Center in Sevierville, TN. God has opened a door for us in an old building that is more than a hundred years old but well maintained about two blocks from where we were. We are renting the building from a Presbyterian church that is only used on Sunday mornings. God is always faithful, now we have more space and availability of rooms for our children. Can you please thank me for this?



Online Classes | Marietta

This quarter it was a blessing to be able to help the Bible Institute of the Baptist Church of Marietta, GA, with the Pastoral Theology subject. It is a joy to see the brothers and sisters of each local church prepare themselves with tools to serve the Lord in their places or wherever He calls them. I am grateful for these opportunities that are part of contributing to the extension of his kingdom.



Conferences & Travel | Puerto Rico

Visiting the beautiful island of Puerto Rico is always a blessing, due to the fact that the Lord has given me the privilege of meeting many faithful pastors who face the ministry every day with joy and integrity. Also, because God has blessed my family in special ways over the years through the Aibonito Baptist Church.



I had the privilege of participating in their Missionary Conference. We had a time of joy and precious days of communion with generous hospitality. We also took advantage of the time to visit the churches of Guayama, Cayey, and Guaynabo. I was even able to minister in the chapel of the Baptist College of Puerto Rico. I am truly grateful for the friendship and prayers of the pastors of this island. It is my prayer that God will continue to raise up faithful men to continue carrying the gospel and strengthen His church.



Family

This fall, we had a visit from my oldest daughter, Cesia, and her baby, Lucas Josué. As you know, we are already grandparents. We thank the Lord for His kindness and take the opportunity to ask for your prayers for the health of our daughter, Cesia. She has an aggressive tumor that has grown, and she must undergo localized proton shot treatment. It is planned for February of this year. Can you join us in prayer? Thank you so much.



- We are thankful for the new place we have to continue in the church planting process.
- We give thanks for the baptisms of new believers.
- We are thankful for the Lord's protection on all our trips.
- Please pray for wisdom to grow the ministry the Lord has given us.
- We thank God for His provision to cover the expenses of the incorporation process of the new church that we started planting.
- Continue to pray for the Lord's provision for the funds we need to purchase a laptop for the ministry. We are grateful that \$1000 has already been provided. We still need an additional \$599.



We can only say: His grace is greater! With gratitude, we can confidently proclaim that everything is by Him and for Him in what He allows us to do as we get involved in the work of His vineyard. It is my prayer that you have a blessed New Year with many blessings, loving the Lord with all your soul and with all your strength.



Serving with gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben Ortiz".

Hebrews 12:28