



The Melendez Family on Mission

“For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works...” (Ephesians 2:10)

Ladies' Day



We began 2011 with an event just for the ladies. The activity was held on Saturday, January 8th, from 3-6 PM, with a total of ten women in attendance. My wife Mayra shared with them a message from the Word of God based on Proverbs 31:30. They sang spiritual hymns, prayed, and shared some food and fun activities. The men helped out by looking after the kids and serving the meal. Besides offering strength and encouragement through the Lord, the idea is to create a Christian environment where women feel motivated and want to participate. It was a joyful afternoon for all.

Newborn



The Eguizabal family was blessed with a lovely and healthy baby girl. Emely Gisselh was born on Tuesday, January 4th, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. She tipped the scales at 8 pounds and measured 20 inches long. Her parents (Luis and Maria) are very happy and grateful to God for allowing them to be parents for the third time. We rejoice with the Eguizabal family for their new baby and we praise God, for only He can bring these miracles into our lives.

My brother-in-law and I were invited to a meeting in the Province of Cartago with some ministers from the Churches of Christ. Basically they wanted to meet us, welcome us to Costa Rica, and congratulate us for taking on the challenge of starting the first Church of Christ in Palmares. They also informed us of their plans to found a church in San José, the capitol of Costa Rica. We were very pleased to spend time with these brothers in Christ.

Preacher's Meeting



Winning Souls for Christ in



This year we will be carrying out several activities aimed at winning souls for the Lord in Palmares and nearby communities. We ask that you join us in prayer asking that God bless our efforts to gain disciples for Christ. The activities we have planned are described below.

Bible Classes. Every Tuesday and Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. we teach on biblical topics about which people have expressed interest. This is in addition to our weekly service on Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

Home Meetings. On Wednesday afternoons we meet in different homes to pray, sing, study the Word of God, and eat together. We have been holding these meetings for several months now. We always invite our neighbors, and some of them join us. As more people convert to the Lord, we will be training them to conduct similar meetings in various homes at the same time, thus allowing us to reach more souls in Palmares.

Ladies' Day. One Saturday each month there will be a gathering for women only, in order to offer strength and encouragement through the Lord. Each woman from the congregation is encouraged to invite a friend.

Potlucks. On the second Sunday of each month we have a potluck lunch at the Church to strengthen friendship ties and the spirit of communion among the members and our visitors, as well as to bring new friends into the congregation.

Gospel Meetings. During the third week of each month we will be teaching on topics related to salvation for three consecutive days, beginning in February. The idea is to bring together the largest number of people possible and persuade them to obey the Gospel. On some occasions we will likely be inviting a speaker for this event.

Visitation and Door-Knocking. In the afternoons from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. we visit our contacts to study the Bible and encourage them in the Lord. In the event one of our contacts is not able to receive us on a given day, we go door-to-door in our community. This is the best part of the day for me, since I normally spend the morning hours at the church preparing my sermons and Bible class materials. I enjoy all of these activities, but mostly I love to share God's Word with people.

Other Activities. There are other events that we plan on holding occasionally, such as holiday activities for married couples, adolescents, and children; charity activities; and volunteering in retirement homes and orphanages.

These activities may be modified or substituted for other more effective ones if they do not produce satisfactory results. These are only strategies for bringing people to church, although we know that God does His work through the Gospel.

The Suarez Family

Three months ago we met the Suarez family (Lionso, Victoria, and their two children). They are from Nicaragua. Every year they come to Palmares to work on the coffee plantations during the harvest season. They have become frequent visitors to our congregation. One day Victoria stated that she was ready to be baptized, but that her husband was not, and she would not do it until he was ready. We explained to her that salvation is an individual experience, but she insisted that if her husband did not deliver himself to God together with her, she would find it very difficult to persevere in her faith. The Suarez family returned to Nicaragua this month. We hope to see them again when the next coffee harvest season begins at the end of this year.



Just Photos



The Melendez Family

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