



GOOD NEWS

from a far country.

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If you would like to support our ministry, please get in touch with us (our contact information is at the end of this newsletter)

Also, we are glad and blessed to have a faithful congregation that volunteered to be our overseeing congregation. You can get in touch with them, or send your checks/letters at:

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Just a few more days and we will welcome 2019. A lot of things occurred during this 2018, and, a summary of those events as follows.

We started the year worshipping with the brethren at Torrijos Carter, where my father-in-law is the local preacher. We helped with the organization and selection of topics to study during all the year. It was in January when the local preacher at Vista Hermosa approached me to ask me if I would like to work as an evangelist (long story already told). We gladly did it and started worshipping with them since February. Last Sunday was the last one we worshiped with them as we are ready to start a new congregation in our town. In March, we were blessed with the opportunity to travel to Gonzales, LA and deliver our mission report as well as helped with evangelistic efforts there. We were also blessed to be at MSOP for the lectures and rejoice with the opportunity to meet again with beloved ones. If there is one thing we love about lectureships is that opportunity to be together, as we will be in heaven. During June and July, we were helping at campaigns, whether as interpreters or as speakers, but always thankful to get to meet with beloved brethren and help with the evangelistic efforts in those areas. I had also the opportunity, last June, to deliver a class to the youth during the lectureship at the Bible School here in Panama. We kept our studies at home every Thursday night with brethren that worships at Vista Hermosa but who live close to us. Some of them will be part of the congregation we are starting. Others might join us in some services and studies. The plans to work on video and audio recordings to make available for TV and online radio are still in progress, but there has been a short recess as we have been getting everything ready for the new congregation. It is very hard to do everything by ourselves, but we are always thankful for brethren who helped us by advising

us on things that we can do. While we do not have a place where to meet yet, or the funds to get one, we will start at our house. It is not big, but we got able to purchase some chairs, as well as equipment to use during our studies and worship services. Lord willing, I am planning to do live streaming of the worship services, starting this coming January 6, which will be our first service. Please pray for our efforts and for those who will be joining us as we start.

And that is how we are ending 2018, with the contentment of working for the Lord in every possible way we can. It has not been an easy year, but here we are, thanking God for His infinite blessings. Thanking our Lord because of all of you, who have touched our lives in so many ways. Friends that are more than friends. If there is something we want to put in the hearts of everyone who studies with us is the realization that we are more than just a religion, that we are family, the best family we will ever know, the family of God. We are in this together, and we must fight together, cry together, laugh together. We are aware that our citizenship is not in this world, but heaven (Philippians 3:20-21), and while we are in this world we must set the example to others to help them recognize what God expects from all of us (1 Peter 2:13-17).

Our Lord told us that the Christian life is not an easy one (Matthew 5:10-12), but immediately after that, He told us that we must be the light and salt of this world (Matthew 5:13-16). Why does the wicked world prosper and we struggle? Their prosperity is temporal, it will vanish with this world, it will last only while they are alive on this earth, their actions and decisions will be taking into consideration when the judgment comes, and, when that happen, the faithful children of God will be rewarded with the prosperity they deserved, one that will not vanish. This is a lesson that, often, is hard to learn, as we expect that, as Christians, everything in the garden is all rosy, but our Lord, as well as inspired writers of the New Testament, told us that is not going to be that way, at least, not all the time.

There are some brethren who are fighting hard with a disease, but they do not lose their hope and faith in God. There are others that might lose their job, their house, or other possessions, but they keep faithful to the Lord, remembering that what the Christian must seek first is the kingdom of God and his righteousness (Matthew 6:33). Dear brethren, if there is something we learned very clearly during this year, is what the apostle Paul wrote,

“But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me”

(Philippians 4:10-13)

Dear brethren, when there have been moments when we have been feeling weak, or forgotten, or abandoned, God and you have been there for us. We are so thankful for everyone who came to the rescue when we have been struggling financially. When the bank has been calling and reaching us because of a delay in our mortgage, or loans, then many of you came to help us. During this year we have learned how to be content, as the apostle Paul wrote. There have been days when we have been

in huge need, and others when we are able to help those who are in need. We are thankful to God because we did not have one day during all this time in which we went to bed without eating. We have learned how to be better stewards, and recognize that nothing would be possible without Christ who strengthens us. We decided to dedicate our lives to serve our Lord a few years ago, and we have been blessed in ways that are hard to describe, as it was also written by the same apostle, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

May 2019 be a wonderful year, full of blessings to each one of you. That we all get able to reach more lost souls and help them realize what is needed to be reconciled to God. To recognize that we are not alone, that there are many of us doing the work of the Lord around the world, with different needs, but with the same goal in mind, to be able to go to Heaven and be with Him.

All of you are in our prayers, yesterday, today, and always. May God keep blessing you richly and please, do not give up, keep up the good work you do for the Lord, you set the example not only to us, but to everyone around you. Let each one of us our lights shine in this world of darkness, remembering what our Lord did for us, and being thankful to Him not only in words, but also in deeds.

Happy 2019!

ARTICLES AND SERMONS

- Will be working on this section for upcoming newsletters, but in the meantime we invite you to visit the website created for the congregation <http://idclasvillas.org> as well as to follow the social media accounts by searching for @idclasvillas.

PICTURES



We are sharing only one picture in this issue. It was taken this past Thursday as we hosted a Christmas dinner after our Bible study. We are thankful that some of them will be part of our congregation, but more thankful on always having brethren who visit us and encourage us to keep up with the work we are doing. We are very excited to start this work this coming January, please pray for us and these efforts, always seeking to glorify our heavenly Father in everything we do.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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