



Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva Lourdes

REPORT FOR DECEMBER 08 - JANUARY 09



(Adapted from an article written by Alex Hernandez and Chity Escobar)

Dear Friends,

We wish you a very bright and Happy New Year! We are so thankful for how the Lord blessed us in 2008. You, our friends were our greatest blessing, those who have faithfully stood with us in prayer and support during the year. Thank you! Thank you for helping us to expand God's Kingdom and transform lives in the Lourdes Colon area of El Salvador. We would not have been able to accomplish all we have without your faithful support and help.

Another tremendous blessing in 2008 was the ability to purchase our own installations. In June 2008 the Lord gave us the keys to our new property. This strategic location is fondly known as "The Enchanted Estate" (La Quinta El Encanto) and is located on the Highway between San Salvador and Sonsonate. The name is truly fitting as we are completely enchanted with our new installations.

Our new installations have also provided us with challenges.....the greatest has been that of proper maintenance of such a beautiful place. We have also been challenged with the wise and proper use of our new installations. "The Enchanted Estate" had previously been rented out by the hour or day to businesses or people who have used it for social events or training seminars. We decided to continue to make it available for those uses so as to generate funds to help pay for the loan on the property. Even though we did not have as much experience as we would have liked in this area the Lord has been right there directing and guiding us successfully in this area of administration also.

We are thankful for such a beautiful place and the opportunity to supplement our finances but our priority objective is to be known as the New Life Baptist Church of Lourdes, a excellent place for every member of our congregation to worship the Lord and grow in wisdom and knowledge of Him and to be able to reach out from this location to those who do not know the Lord so that they may also be saved and join our congregation.

In this spirit we have embarked upon 2009 full of hope. Our desire is to glorify the Lord in all we do. We are trusting God to open new doors of opportunity to reach the lost for Christ in this area and are completely convinced that this will only happen as we say, "We will do ALL that which YOU command us to do".

May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you! Deuteronomy 1:11.

VBS 2008

Our enchanting installations were converted into a fantastic world for children from December 15 to 20. The theme of our VBS was "Catch the Wave". Many children attended and learned more about God. They had a great time playing games, doing crafts, singing new songs and enjoying refreshments. The best part was the Bible teaching where each child learned all about how God can produce the Fruit of the Holy Spirit in them. We are so thankful for Candace Carr and her team who helped us with this very special activity that has impacted the lives of our children forever.



Diego Josue praying during VBS.

Joao Fernando during VBS 2008.



Christmas Dinner

On Sunday December 21st we celebrated our traditional Christmas dinner. In keeping with our tradition we all ate chicken! It was a very special event attended by 120 adults and 80 children. Several activities made our Christmas dinner even more special. The children and youth put on very special Christmas show and drama which was directed by David and Yeny Lopez and several people received gifts for different accomplishments. We are so thankful for the opportunity to celebrate this special date dedicated to Jesus birth!



The children's show put on during the Christmas dinner.



More beautiful children during the Christmas dinner show.



Some Christmas gift winners!



The ladies serving our dinner

Ministry Dinner



On Saturday December 27th we celebrated the end of the year with all our ministry teams. It was our way of saying thank you to them for all their hard work in ministry during the year. Sunday school teachers, disciplers and even our ushers were all present. The leaders of each ministry challenged their members to continue working hard for the Lord and fulfill our mission in Lourdes. We all enjoyed the festive atmosphere, the smiles, the food, the fellowship, and most of all the one Spirit and one purpose we all share because of what Jesus Christ has done for us. The evening was wrapped up with a big "Thank You" from the pastors for all their hard work over the year and inspirational words to motivate them to continue the race and keep the pace for the Lord in 2009.

Discipleship

In January we re-initiated our basic Bible studies for all those new believers who are committed to study the Bible in a more personal way. We continue to offer discipleship one on one as well as in a group setting. We have 2 new group opportunities for Discipleship I which meet on Wednesday evenings. We have called this new group "First Steps".

We also began our Bible Institute classes on Wednesday January 14th. A good sized group of believers are anxious to learn more from the Bible at the next level. They are committed to deepening their relationship with God and having a better perspective from the Word of God. It is so exciting to see men and women who desire to know God more and better prepare themselves for the work of the ministry He has given them.

The Plan for 2009

On Friday December 19th, 2008 met with all our ministry leaders and reviewed our 4 year history. We considered our growth over this period of time, which has been wonderful and we challenged them to not get comfortable but to rather think of new ways to continue to expand God's Kingdom in the area of Lourdes. We believe that every adult, youth and child has the responsibility to be a channel by which others can come to know our God. This year we want to increase interest in missions, in fact that will be the emphasis of our Fourth Anniversary celebration. On January 23rd we celebrated 4 wonderful years since we initiated Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva Lourdes. It is our desire that every member shares the same heart for God and is willing to say, "We will do ALL that which YOU command us to do".

Our Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for God to provide for our monthly loan payment for "The Enchanted Estate".
2. Please pray for the health of the pastors and their families.
3. Please pray for the children of our congregation.
4. Please pray for every leader of every ministry of our congregation.
5. Please pray for the married couples of our congregation.
6. Please pray that God will provide for every activity we have planned for this year.
7. Please pray for our church's finances.
8. Please pray that we will be able to rent out our installations for events and celebrations.
9. Please pray for the youth in our congregation.
10. Please pray for our church in general, for all the plans we have made for 2009 that they will be in accordance with God's plans for our church.

Thank you so very much for everything you have done for us in 2008, may God bless all you have done for us, and we trust that it will be your desire to continue partnering with us in 2009.

May God bless you! Thank you so much for your faithful support. Alex and Chity and their families.

May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you as He has promised you!

Deuteronomy 1:11.

Leadership Team

Couples from left to right:

Raul and Cecy Castro

Alex and Norma Hernandez

Herbert and Flor Guerrero

Chity and Patty Escobar

David and Yeny López

