

Verbo Bluefields News. November 2021

Once again we greet you dear family and friends. Since we last wrote we have been met with joys and sorrows, but as always, God remains faithful. My father passed to glory in September and shortly after our dear friend Pastor Ricardo Hernandez, his son Jasiel and Pastor Bob Trolese joined him. In such a short time a number of other friends have also died, mainly through the pandemic. We can only rejoice in the great reunion there will have been in heaven, but we still feel sadness at our loss.



Last time we mentioned that our daughter Esther and her family had moved to Bluefields, well now our son Andrew and his wife are living in Bluefields too. It is good to have them so near to us.

Covid at the moment has risen again here in Bluefields and this has affected the children's attendance at the school. We had to split the classes and have them attend on different days, so that each class was not overcrowded. Some days they had to work from home. We also decided for our children not to take part in the Independence Day march in an attempt to help with the covid19 situation.

The school has a psychologist and she recently discovered the appalling conditions that three of our students were living in after their house had collapsed. She shared her concern with our women's group and some of them expressed a desire to visit the single mom and her family. It resulted in some funding unexpectedly being made available which has resulted in the house being rebuilt. God was certainly at work because not only did He provide the finances, but also the free labour given by the Bluefields YWAM group and a team from Mexico.



Before

and

After



Work at the school is making progress. The cover on the walkway from the entrance down to the school is now complete, saving many people getting wet in the rainy season. We are truly grateful to those who so generously provided the funding for it and also to those who worked in the construction of it. Our next project for the school is for a complete rewiring of it, so hopefully soon there will be no more unsightly wires hanging.



The construction of the two tier extension at the church which will provide a new Sunday school class room with office and meetings rooms above, is well on the way to completion. We are aware that it has taken so much longer than we anticipated, but in God's timing, He has provided the necessary funds, though we still have a little shortfall in funds. Once again, a huge thankyou to all of you who continued to believe in this project and supported us throughout

Our youth group has started up again and it is good to see a number of new faces and some of the younger ones before it closed now taking over leadership. They are an enthusiastic group who are an example that learning about the Lord can be done in a fun way.

It's over a year now since we opened a Verbo church in San Sebastian, a town which is a 30 minute drive from Bluefields and it is meeting the needs of the local people there who gather together to worship God. We noticed the amount of children in the area and it was decided to start up a feeding programme one day a week. It's in its early days, but already we can see the success of it. Because the 2nd of November was a national holiday, a group from Verbo Bluefields went to San Sebastian to join the congregation there for a picnic and fun day. Good relationships are already in the making.



The local hospital is struggling to meet the needs of the covid patients and running short of many vital supplies throughout, but we have been able to contribute a number of items which the director of the hospital made a plea for. These included hospital gowns, towels, bed sheets, blood pressure bands, mattresses and bags of emergency basic supplies.



Our farm, Agro Verbo, is looking really healthy at the moment. We've had some good crops of bananas, cucumber, peppers, beans and spinach. We were saddened when we discovered some of our cement posts which edge the land and which had just been laid, were stolen. We are finding it difficult to keep the thieves off our land who think they have a right to help themselves to our crops!



In writing this, we realize how close we are to Christmas and remember once again the reason why we celebrate it. This year many of you will have an empty space at your table and we share in your sadness, but let's not forget the Emmanuel, the God who is with us.

Shalom

Ed & Lígia.