

Greetings in this New Year to all our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. We celebrated many Joyous occasions in December, foremost the Birth of our Savior and King, Jesus Christ. He was at the heart and center of all the special events that took place. We were reminded that without Him none of these wonderful occasions would have happened, and were reminded as we stand firm in our Faith God will fulfill the plans He has for us.

The beginning of December I packed up the van with gifts, treats, and apples to help with an outreach to 70 underprivileged children in Guacimo. I shared an interactive Christmas message in Spanish. It was a joy to see the laughter of the children as we displayed and journeyed the Birth of Jesus together in actions. We then celebrated with games, food, and presents for each child. Jesus, the Greatest Gift of all, poured out His Love on these children and it showed through their smiles and thankful hearts.



The Costa Rican school year ends the beginning of December with closing fiestas, promotions, and graduations. This year we had seven Kindergarten graduates,



Six sixth Graders will be heading to high school,



and sixteen Ninth Grade promotions.



There were Eleven high school graduates, and we are so proud to say our first University graduate. The smiles and joy on their faces showed as they marched across the stages to receive their diplomas. Here are some words of high school graduates that have overcome many trials and difficulties to reach this accomplishment through our education ministry outreach.



Wendy is a single mother of two children. She dropped out of school at eighth grade. Through prayer and encouragement at church she returned to school. She writes, "First of all, I give thanks to God and for Pastor Sally and Crosby for their help through their Education Ministry that helped me to achieve my goal. May God continue to Bless them and all who have given, and Hearts and Hands for Jesus. To graduate from high school meant a lot to me because I am youngest and the first one in my family (13 brothers and sisters) to do so. My mother felt so Happy about it. Without your program my mother would not have enjoyed herself so much at my graduation. Thank you for the education program. I hope to receive more help to complete my studies in University and fulfill my dreams."



We started to help Daniela and her brother Pablo when their mother passed away when she started 7th grade. She and her brother lived with their great aunt because their father was very ill and unable to take care of them. Daniela writes, “Hello, I am Daniela Brenes. I am very grateful for all the help and support I received through all my years of high school. With all my heart I give special thank you to Pastor Sally for her prayers and support, for all who have given, and Hearts and Hands for Jesus. My goal is to continue in my studies in University studying Microbiology and if it is in my power to help others. Thank You and God Bless you.”



Stephanie is a single mother of two. She also had quit school, but returned knowing it would help her and her daughters. She is the youngest of her siblings and first to graduate in her family. By returning to high school she sets an example for her children and many others of the importance of education. Stephanie writes. “I would like to say thank you for all the help and support that my daughter and I have received over these past years. In first place I give God thanks because I'm a graduate of High School, a dream come true. I give thanks to everyone who donates because it such a Big blessing not only for me but for many others. I give thanks to Pastor Sally and Mr. Crosby because they have always been shoulder to shoulder with US, thank you. I want to encourage you all to keep on donating, be a light and to bring hope in many other children and young adults lives. Muchismo Gracias!”

The new school year will begin in February 2020. Last year through your prayers and financial support we helped 118 students with backpack supplies, uniforms, and shoes. Throughout the year we provided project materials, textbooks, bus passes, student insurance, uniform replacements, photo copy fees and many other educational needs. We hope this year that you will join us to continue to build strong communities, empower individuals, and break chains of poverty.

Crosby and I look forward to this coming year and all that God is about to do in our lives, church, Costa Rica, and wherever He calls us. We pray that God will strengthen and rekindle our gifts and talents using them for His Glory. May we be the Light of Christ wherever we go. Join us as we follow our Father and where He leads in this New Year.

Serving Christ in Costa Rica,

Crosby and Sally Johnson

We continue to seek prayer for:

God's guidance, healing, and wisdom

Health and safety for Crosby and I

Creativity and patience working with our students and families

Monthly financial support for us and to meet 2020 educational and food needs in the community and church

Needed repairs and maintenance at church and mission house and for the van

For those we serve, health and safety and increased understanding of what it means to follow Jesus