

# The Bickel Family

## Church Planting in Costa Rica

### Prayer Requests:

\* Souls Saved

\* Church Growth

\* Children's Home

### Ministries

\* More Church Space

\* Visa Renewal - My papers are now in for a "permanent" visa

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## January 2011

**Preparing our hearts!** For the past two years God has brought children in and out of our home. Children who were abused, neglected or abandoned. God showed us how to help them. He also showed us when it was time to let them go. Due to various things that have occurred with the children God allowed us to learn the children's service system inside out. He gave us an opportunity to gain knowledge in this area. Most importantly, he taught us how to love them! Through the heartbreak of children leaving we found out just how deeply God loves us. We realize now that He had us in the fire to prepare us for such a time as this...



**New Opportunities!** God was preparing us to be able help these same type of children but in a way that we never imagined. This past month Lighthouse Children's Home Costa Rica joined our church. Praise God! He spent two years training us in what these children need, how to pray for them, and how to best point them to God! The older teenagers are eager to help. Many have taught Sunday school in the past and worked in nurseries. They want to be a blessing to the church, but more importantly our desire is to love and minister to them!

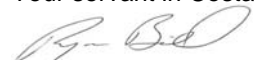
**Pray for more space!** With our church growing greatly over night the need for space is urgent. We have children and teacher's but we need more classroom space. Please pray for us as we are looking for either more storefront space where we are currently or another location. We are praying for God's timing in being able to purchase a building of our own. Please pray with us in this area!



**We moved for our safety!** In the last prayer letter we mentioned how a volcanic fault was opening up in front of our house. We watched as trees fell in the street right in front of us. The engineers were shocked when a huge tree that was leaning right at our house fell in the middle of the night in the opposite direction. We have watched the drop off from the fault come ever closer and drop down deeper. Finally, after much prayer and council, we made the decision to get out of the house. God immediately began working out every detail. The previous owners decided they wanted the house back and even paid us a little to move to a safer place. We immediately found a rental house closer to the church and perfect for our family. We are now all moved out and getting settled in the new house. Praise God for His protection and provision!

**Thank you for your faithfulness!** We want you to know that we appreciate each and every one of you. Your prayers, your emails, your encouragement and your financial support. Most people we lead to the Lord are in homes or out in the community. This past month a dear couple, which were experiencing a very difficult situation, wandered into the church after the service had ended. That day both of them trusted Christ as their Savior. These and many others will one day be in Heaven because of your faithfulness!

Your servant in Costa Rica,



Ryan Bickel