

The Bickel Family

Church Planting in Costa Rica

Prayer Requests:

* Souls Saved

* Church Growth

* Children's Home

Ministries

* 15 Passenger Van

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

Mailing Address:

Ryan Bickel
Apartado 1844-7050
Cartago, Costa Rica 30102

Vonage Phone:

904-704-4957

Sending Church:

Berean Baptist Church
4459 HWY 17
Fleming Island, FL 32003
904-264-5333

Support Address:

Berean Baptist Church
Home & Foreign Missions
4459 HWY 17
Fleming Island, FL 32003
904-264-5333

Web Site:

www.bickelfamily.com

Email Address:

missions@bickelfamily.com

November 2010

Praise God! We were very blessed this last month! On 5th Sundays I always encourage church members to participate in the service with a special hymn or testimony. When we first started it was only my family singing but this last time we had a very good participation. This young man, Allan, decided he wanted to participate as well and preached for the very first time. I was amazed that his first sermon lasted 45 minutes! He did a very good job and we are looking forward to his preaching again on December 30th!



Our city received a "gift" from the Pope. To celebrate the 375th anniversary of the "appearing" of the virgin of Los Angeles the Pope has given a special indulgence to the city of Cartago. If someone will visit the Basilica, participate in a mass and then pray before the virgin all they have to do is then walk through this "holy" door and supposedly all of their sins will be forgiven. This is different than going to confession because they teach that a priest only has permission to pardon sins on the behalf of God but this indulgence is said to remove the very vestiges of sin as well. The basilica has been very busy since this was started. Every time we drive past we see more and more people walking through this door.

Please continue to pray for our safety! This rainy season was extra rainy. The ground is literally saturated. The country has experience disastrous flooding and landslides. When the effects of hurricane Thomas passed by Costa Rica this month the disaster came close to home. It was discovered that right in front of our house is a volcanic fault. This fault has recently caused the land to drop off about 12 feet. The resulting landslide has undermined the houses located below ours and those six families have been ordered to evacuate their homes. The area you see in this photo was formerly a garden where the neighborhood "virgin" statue stood which is now in the river below.



Thank you for your continued prayers! In our last prayer letter I asked for your prayers for the renewal of my family's visas. Even though there were "minor complications" they were able to renew their visas for 2 more years. This month I was able to put in the paperwork for a "permanent" visa for myself. Once I am approved we will be able to convert everyone in the family to this status. The process normally takes 3 months but in the middle will be the Christmas holiday. Supposedly the upgrade in status is "automatic" due to the amount of time we have been in the country but nothing with immigration is an easy matter. Please pray for this process that it will go smoothly and with little trouble.

Your servant in Costa Rica,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Bickel".

Ryan Bickel