



NEWS FROM THE BRANSONS

Serving in Costa Rica | May 2021

Wow, it's May already?! The start of this year has been crazy busy for us! From adjusting to Carter to the renovation of the ministry space, things have been moving quickly. It's all just been a whirlwind.

Carter is now six months old and is getting more active by the day. It took us some time to get adjusted and a good family routine down, but we finally got back in the groove of ministry as a family of 5!



All of the sudden, Costa Rica decided that people who had stayed through the pandemic had to renew their visas. Corey had to take a last minute trip out and back in for a new date. It was crazy!

We started with reintegrating ourselves back into the youth group here. We had the privilege of helping with a youth camp earlier this year and, just recently, were invited to tag-team a youth service and share our testimonies. In the vulnerability of us and the two main youth leaders showing these teenagers that we all have a story and God wants us just as we are, we saw God really move. 13 teenagers came forward to rededicate their lives or accept Jesus for the first time! The weekly youth services have had such a sweet presence of the Holy Spirit. They're growing spiritually and in number. It really is amazing!

We have also been going through a discipleship training and intense Bible study with Jimena, the youth leader. Strategically, this was the very first thing that took place the week El Puente opened. Why El Puente (which means the bridge), you ask? We prayed and asked God for a very subtle, but intentional name for the ministry space and this is what kept coming up for us. The vision God has given us for this center is that it become a place to bridge the gap between the church and the community! A place for both people groups to come together for various things there and build relationships, which will give way for the church to point the community to Christ. Praise God, we've already started seeing this!



We are officially outnumbered! To say they're in love with their baby would be an understatement.

Our first meet and greet to see who all was interested in being part of an English study group was a good mix of church and unchurched people! We prepared and prayed and knew of about half of the people that ended up showing up, but God surprised us when a total of 22 adults show up! We now have two groups that meet on Wednesday nights, full of life and energy, ready to learn and spend time in community with one another. It's really incredible! The opening has been a slower process, as we introduce more and more things available to the whole community, but we are excited!

We ask you to be praying for El Puente! More specifically for the activities already going on and the people that are coming in and out of the building weekly already, but also for the things to come. We have some church members that are collaborating with us to offer their talents to the community as a way to minister; such as guitar lessons. We are in the planning stages of having a couple of different Bible study groups begin meeting there, and once we finish training with Jimena, a small group will also begin meeting there weekly. Thank

you for all the prayers, encouragement, and financial support; especially in these last few months as we have been fundraising to get this ministry going. There is absolutely no way we could do this alone. Know that your partnership is and will continue to make a difference for the kingdom of God here in Costa Rica!

If you are not currently part of our partnership team, please pray and ask God how you can be a part of it! Whether it be monthly supporting us personally, monthly supporting the ministry itself, or a once in a while gift. All of this makes a huge difference. We love you very much and pray God's blessing over you and your family! **- COREY, LINDSEY, COOPER, LONDYN, & CARTER**



After almost a whole year of distance learning, kids all over Costa Rica finally had the option of going back to school! Cooper's in 1st grade and Londyn's in pre-k 4.



Part of the group that now forms our two adult English study groups on Wednesday nights!



The youth celebrated January and February birthdays and wanted the kids to celebrate with them since they're both January babies!



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