

February 2023



Requenez-Zeiset family serving in Costa Rica

New Years, New Adventures

Every year brings something new. For us, it may look a little different, but we have a lot to look forward to. As the year starts, we have started to bring teachings from VidaNet, where we were previously staffed, to the youth in Siquirres. Our theme for the year is "Finding Our Purpose," and we started strong with a session about glorifying God. Throughout the year we are hoping to look at subjects such as pride, relationships, identity and many more! It's exciting to see the energy and excitement in the youth to learn more and deepen their relationship with God.

Many of the youth came to the youth group through a program called "Alpha," last year. Since then, many of them have been baptized and started coming to Sunday services as well. Although we have 30 to 50 youth, many don't have the basis of what it means to be a Christian, or what it looks like to live a Christian life. Our goal is to teach the love of Jesus, and at the same time, speak truth into the lives of everyone who comes, in a way that is easy to understand, and eventually go deeper once the foundation is made.

In the first week of February we received an email that my documents for my U.S. visa got approved! We are very excited to know that we are a step ahead in this process, and hope that soon we will be able to travel together to the U.S.. If all the next steps go smoothly there's a possibility that we'd be able to travel this year! It would be such a blessing and such a joyful experience to have this opportunity to visit friends and family together. We appreciate all your prayers during this process!

The other week, we had the opportunity to go on a day trip with a family from the church who also lives close to us. We went to one of the most beautiful volcanoes, and highest points in the country. It was very cold, about 40 degrees Fahrenheit, and windy, which is freezing for those who've never experienced 'real cold' before. We then visited an old hospital and psych ward called "Duran Sanatorium," which was used for tuberculosis patients during a pandemic in the early 1900s. It was then turned into a historical site, and brings a lot of tourists. It was a full day of great experiences, including having a picnic in our cars because the wind was so strong our plates would've blown away. The family who was with us has been a huge blessing for us and we've created a great relationship with each one of them. It was a three hour drive each way, but so worth it! We enjoyed every moment!

One of our friends, whose nickname is 'Pollo' which means chicken, invited us to visit him and go to a river by his house. He lives in a secluded town in the mountain off the main road. Most of his family are farmers of all kinds; cows, milk and cheese, chickens, a little bit of everything. The river was beautiful, and right on the edge of where white-water rafting tours are done. The trail to the river was long, and the hike back up the mountain was tiresome, but definitely worth it, although I'm not sure we would do it again, haha.

We Appreciate Your Prayers

- Pray that the next steps in Ema's visa process would go smoothly and that he would get an appointment at the US embassy for his green card.
- For the youth of Siquirres, that they would have open hearts towards the presence of God, and have a desire to walk with him.

- Emanuel & Leah Requenez-Zeiset



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