



September 2023

Requenez-Zeiset family

serving in Costa Rica

A Showering Of Blessings

Blessings come in all shapes and sizes, and over these past weeks, we've experienced an abundance of blessings. Emanuel's exploratory trip at the end of July to the Dominican Republic went well, "We were blessed to go to the Dominican Republic, explore the culture, and experience many experiences: Upon arrival, we got to see Santo Domingo, the capital of this beautiful country. The next day we traveled for about 6 hours to reach a town by the border of Haiti called Jimani. This place was on our minds a lot and we really wanted to know and explore there. We were thankful to have the opportunity to be there and also have time to share with people from Jimani and do a bit of ministry with games for the children, songs, a short teaching, and providing a small snack. We also had a message for the mothers of the children who showed up. We felt very welcomed by all of them. They asked us with joy, when we planned to return and when we would be there again, which encouraged us a lot. The next day we had the cultural experience of visiting a church and seeing the way in which they practice the gospel. It was very good and very encouraging for all of us. We were truly extremely blessed through this experience."

We hope to share more about this experience and how God spoke through it in a separate update. Leah's parents came to visit in July, and they were able to be part of our baby shower, where we were overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity of others. It was an evening full of sharing with friends, family, and celebrating the new life on its way. We also want to thank those who sent things down with Leah's parents; we felt so loved with each gift! You mean so much in our lives and we are extremely thankful. It was nice to spend time with Leah's parents as we don't get to see them often. We put them to work and were grateful for all of their help as we painted the nursery, bought a few things, and do some other projects before the baby comes. We're so thankful for them, and the next time we see them, they'll be meeting their granddaughter! We also celebrated CR Mother's day while they were here and celebrated by learning how to make tamales with our friend. While they were visiting us, we received an email that Ema's visa appointment has been scheduled for October 16th! We had been waiting so long to receive that email that it almost didn't feel real! We are so excited for this advancement and are thankful to everyone who has been praying for this appointment to be given to us. Ema had a pre-appointment on September 13th to turn in all his documents before his appointment in October. Because we are soliciting temporary residency and not a tourist visa, there have been a few extra things that we've needed. After a stressful week collecting, printing off documents and scheduling mandatory medical appointments for the pre-appointment, but we got it done! We would appreciate your continued prayers for Ema's next appointment on October 16th.

Leah also had an advancement in her residency, and officially has a Costa Rican ID card! In the last week of August, the owner of the house we were in told us that she had a medical and family emergency and needed to return to the house and that she would like to do so before the end of September. It was a stressful week that followed. We are going to Heredia, where Ema's mom lives, two hours away to have the baby, on the 10th. Our plan was to go later in the month, but due to Ema's pre-visa being scheduled beforehand, it didn't make sense for us to travel back and forth so many times in one month. This gave us about 15 days to try to figure out where we could go, and how to pack, move, and have some things settled and organized before we return with a newborn. Thanks to some close friends we have here, we were able to look at a nearby house on the same day the owner gave us the news. Our friends helped us pack up and move our things, and we couldn't have been more grateful in such a stressful time. God has put amazing people in our lives in the year we've been in Siquirres, and they're such a blessing.

We have also been meeting with our youth leaders to try our best to prepare them and make sure they have everything they might need while we are not in Siquirres. At times it has been difficult, but we have found a way to give each person responsibility without having them feel overwhelmed. We trust and pray that God will also guide them during this time. They've all been very supportive during this time of us having to step back and surrender part of our responsibilities to them.

We are so excited to hold our greatest blessing in our arms in just a few weeks! We are praying for a good labor and a healthy birth! Thank you for your prayers, we love each one of you!

- Emanuel & Leah Requenez-Zeiset



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