



July 2020

Following the FRIDENSTINES

Our God is still on the throne, He is still in control, and He still has great plans for 2020 because His Great Commission has not changed and His work must still go forward. This has been our motto since our last update letter three months ago. We are going forward for Jesus Christ and He is doing great things in Cojutepeque, El Salvador in spite of a pandemic, quarantine, doubts, fears, stuck in phase one and this “everything virtual” period of history. Thank you for your faithfulness in this time. The thoughts, prayers, faithful support and extra gifts from you have blessed our hearts and kept our eyes on an amazing God!

There is too much to share to fit in one letter, but here are the highlights of what has been happening:

Church: We have faithfully been streaming services three times a week on **Facebook and YouTube** as churches legally cannot go back to meeting until phase 3; and at the moment, we are still stuck on phase 1. However, the authorities are not really enforcing that, so there is a good group meeting at each service in person as well as the streaming. God’s Word is being preached, great music is being sung and our people are growing, faithfully giving and encouraging one another. This past Sunday, we were able to see **four baptized** and have **two more** planned for tomorrow. We are excited to open the doors publicly very soon once again.

Christian School: As our school system here runs from January through October, we never had a break in our academic year. Everything is now on GoogleClassroom. Our teachers have worked hard to learn the new platform as well as how to make video lessons and communicate better with their students all on a virtual level. While we have lost a few students, the great majority are going forward and doing a wonderful job. Many of our teachers and staff have had seasons of sickness and loss, but they are going forward in training future generations.

Bible Seminary: As our plans for the programmed seminary classes got changed due to our teachers not being able to travel into the country or our students able to meet together, we changed our plan as well. My assistant, Walter, and I taught an online class on finances and then we had the great privilege of recording a class on the book of Job with Dr. Jim Preston that our students are now also taking online. There are 78 students in this current class and we are excited with the tremendous increase and excited spirit among the students.

Our children are doing well with the online learning in our school. **Joel** is finishing up 5th grade and he is enjoying keeping up our backyard that the Lord has recently blessed us with and helping with the construction at the church.

Micah is loving the extra one-on-one time with mom as teacher and excelling in his learning. He has missed his friends and is so excited that we are now getting to leave the house more regularly.

Isaí is learning to read and his personality is transforming during this quarantine time.

He is always discovering new things and loves to talk and talk and talk!



Mission board: In our last letter, we mentioned the vision to start a Mission Board for Central America. We are so very grateful for BIMI and are so very honored to serve with them at our side. As we are seeing men and women raised up here in Central America and preparing to go to the world with the Gospel, there is not an agency that can help them practically like BIMI does for us. After much prayer, counsel, research and preparation, ABIL MISIONES (Agencia Bautista Internacional de Latinoamerica) now exists. We have a wonderful group of national pastors and missionaries that make up the board of directors who voted the agency into existence on July 1st and approved the Constitution, Bylaws and policies. The admission forms will be going out next week and we plan to have our first candidate school at the end of October as long as the borders open back up before then. We are so very excited to see what God is going to do as this agency comes alongside of local churches to encourage, help and train missionaries and church planters for the harvest. We would love to have you to be a part of helping to support this new agency or helping with a one-time gift for the first candidate school in just three months. We know that God is going to do miracles!



Bathroom construction: The other big project during this time has been to remodel our church bathrooms while there is no traffic on the property. We are going from an ugly corner with one good toilet to beautiful, full-access bathrooms that will meet our needs for years to come. With the generous love offering of one supporting church and the savings of our church family over a couple of years, the project is completely paid for, and we are doing all the work in-house. We should be finishing up by the time we officially open once again in about a month.

Thank you once again for your faithfulness during these difficult times. God is good and He is faithful as we continue to obey, give and go. It is a privilege to be part of these unique days. We do not want to take it for granted. There is work to do and souls to reach with the Gospel. It is so needed. Please know that we are praying for YOU. Stay faithful, don't give up and keep on keeping on for Christ. It will be worth it all when we see Christ!

Your missionaries to El Salvador,
Adam Fridenstine Family

Other exciting facts:

- We have had five babies born in our church family or school staff. All are healthy and whole and Esther is always more than excited to meet and hold them for the first time.
- We had a wonderful Virtual Youth Conference. Our staff worked very hard and for our first time, we believe that it turned out very well for the cause of Christ. To His praise, we had hundreds of people watching and participating in the preaching, sessions and activities.
- If you want to see and enjoy any of our special music, services or events, they are all on YouTube at Iglesia Bautista Emanuel de Cojutepeque.