

Dear Pastor and Church Family,

The time is here again to share the good news of God's love coming to us through the birth, life, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ. Every day is a day to share the gospel but even more so now at this time of year. I pray your families and church family will have a very blessed time of celebration and sharing of the salvation of God made possible through faith in His Son.

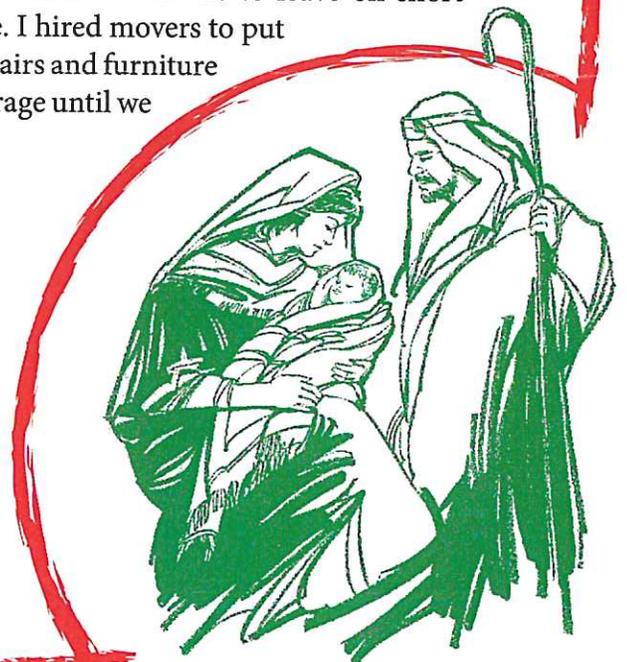
Several weeks ago we had a special birthday celebration in our church. Patricia, who recently became a widower, celebrated her 50th birthday with us. It was important because she is from Columbia and we are the only family she has here in Las Palmas. As I mentioned in a previous letter, her husband's children were trying to take the small apartment away from Patricia, most likely to sell it and divide up the money. But the terms of her husband's will stipulated that it will become the property of his children only after she moves out. I want to thank all of you who prayed for Patricia, she now has a place to live, she still has her job and she is able to enjoy church fellowship with the peace that God has promised to all who trust in Christ. She was overjoyed to celebrate peace in Christ with her church family during her 50th birthday. We gave her a new sofa for her birthday, replacing the old sofa bed in her living room.

I have been very encouraged to see Raul's continued faithfulness at his job. Though he desires working hours more agreeable to support family and church life, he has a good testimony, does not complain and fulfills his responsibilities as an employee and husband. On his third attempt he passed his driving exam and is now licensed to drive freight trucks. Please pray that this skill will enable him to gain a position with better pay and a regular Monday to Friday week that does not interfere with church or family.

Adaisa finished her government sponsored course in social work and she is now doing her practical each day with the Red Cross. She is loving it, helping people over the phone, mostly the elderly who are at home alone. It is highly organized, efficient, with many codes and procedures and she is very happy and grateful for the opportunity. She was waiting for a position to open up at an Ikea store where her sister is a supervisor, but I think she will stay with the Red Cross if they will hire her full time.

Last month was Raul and Adaisa's first wedding anniversary, but they decided to put off the celebration in order to help the church move out of our building. After the move was finished, we gave them an air cooker. Raul loves to cook, but since they started using the cooker Adaisa is now excited about experimenting with different recipes.

Yes, unfortunately we were given six weeks notice to move out of our storefront. Several of us met with the president of the building community to find out why we were given notice to leave. It is a long story but most important to me was that our testimony was perfectly intact and not due to any complaints about the church. It turns out that the storefront is being sold. Something in the contract allowed them to ask us to leave on short notice. I hired movers to put the chairs and furniture in storage until we



# Love has come.

find a new place to meet, and on the final day we met again with the president to say our good-byes and leave a parting gift to show our appreciation for the past three years. Sadly, during all this one member of the church decided to leave. It is always discouraging to see someone leave, but we saw that there were unresolved underlying issues and the move just provided a convenient moment to leave. To me personally, this was a bigger discouragement than leaving the building.

Several weeks later I found two excellent storefronts for rent, but within a week they were gone. As you know I am now also looking for a new apartment, and what I have discovered is that the apartment prices are over inflated like most places, but the storefront market is not inflated. We just have to look every week for a new listing that meets our needs in location, size and cost. This time we are looking for a place that will need little to NO renovation or upgrades.

The sudden shock of having to move out so quickly jump started us to move out ASAP and maintain a good testimony. Afterward the church was a little confused as to what we would do next. I began teaching each Sunday on each word listed in Philippians 4:8 to help guide our thoughts on the Lord and not on the situation. A month later the church was more eager than ever to find a new place and a new start with new possibilities. There is no bitterness, no doubt, only hope and unity in the Spirit. I guess the LORD gave us a trial to put our year long Bible study on "Reaching Spiritual Maturity" into practice. I myself was facing several battles on several fronts this past summer and fall, and was also confined to home for over a month with sciatic pain. As I said in my last prayer letter, the "Whack-a-Mole" was back, but this time three

at a time. I am thankful for the support and advice I received from my BIMI director and my own pastor during this time. I was facing trials with my health, my home and church all at once.

We know that God has told us the way up is down, the way to eternal life is through death, but we must also learn that the way to victory is through surrender. Sometimes we need to be reminded that the way down is through humility, crucifying the flesh with its pride and self-righteousness. Humble surrender to the LORD in the midst of a trial is to the soul like antioxidants are to the body. It was good for me as well as the church, and we are now refreshed and eager to move forward once again.

I have been witnessing to a man from Venezuela, Ivan. Raul has been witnessing to a coworker, and Adaisa has been witnessing to a couple other women in her class. I pray that I will have some good news about these new contacts in the New Year.

Moving forward, we already have our theme for next year, "Prepared for the Wedding," accepting the invitation through faith, then preparing for the wedding through faithfulness. Our first goal is to have a new address and working website to share the gospel by the end of the first quarter of 2024.

I pray this letter was an encouragement to you this Christmas. We serve a Wonderful Saviour.

Please pray for us as the Lord leads, all for His glory!

Have a blessed Christmas!

Terry Sharp

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