

Henry and Tammie Gonzalez

Missionaries in El Salvador

OLD YEAR PRAISES – NEW YEAR ANTICIPATIONS

January 7, 2023

Dear Friends,

We are a few days into the new year. I am amazed at how God has been so merciful to us.

- The year 2022 was our first official school year as a government-certified school. The **John Bunyan Christian School** had a great school year, ending with Kindergarten Graduation. The four K-5 graduates are all children of the first generation of children we worked with when the church was started 25 years ago. What an incredible blessing it was to think of how God's mercy and grace have been over this new generation—the first to be reared in a Christian home! Oh, the potential of these precious lives is an overwhelming thought. God has been so good.
- The year 2022 was a banner year for our soul-winning efforts and for the discipleship of new converts. So far, 556 souls have come to Christ through personal soul winning. I have personally taken 5 men through the first level of a new-convert discipleship program.
- The year 2022 revealed a new group of people to be reached with the Gospel. I pray that in 2023, we will be able to reach many of these forgotten people. God has brought a small number of English-speaking people to our church. It is our prayer that God will use us to reach out to a growing number of former U.S. residents who, through difficult circumstances, find themselves living in their birth country. We plan to open a new Sunday school class in English. These deported people are more comfortable speaking English and feel at home with our family. Several times Tammie has cooked an American-style breakfast for them, and they enjoy it so much. They are going through culture shock in their own native country. Please pray as we endeavor to find and reach these precious people with God's grace.
- The year 2022 was a year of great blessing in our family. Among the many blessings, our son and his wife, Daniel and Megan, started deputation to raise the necessary support to join us in the work here in El Salvador. I am humbled that our son would want to work with us. We are thrilled at the opportunities of growth with their coming to serve in this ministry.

- The 2022 Annual Pastors' Conference was the best one we have ever had. The attendance was phenomenal, and the response to God's calling was unprecedented in our church.
- Youth Camp was also a red-letter event. We had 65 young people from 3 different churches attend. What a thrill it was to observe 3 of our Bible institute graduates simply take over all of the planning and execution of the entire week. Tammie and I taught a couple of times and enjoyed the week. Of the 65 young people who attended, 63 made a public decision to serve the Lord in some capacity. We have seen our youth group, under the faithful leadership of Jimmy Trujillo, flourish this year. They all carry heavy burdens that are being used to focus their intentions on pleasing their Saviour. What a great God we have!
- Here in 2023, I wonder what God will bring and allow this year. No matter what, I know He will be faithful. I know that His ways and leading will be for the best of His work and His servants.
- The year 2023 will present challenges in our work. I already foresee some, as I imagine you do as well, in the ministry in which you serve and lead. One of the blessings of this next year is that as we open our junior high and high school levels at the **John Bunyan Christian School**, we are excited that we already have five students in these two educational levels. Please take the time to read our **John Bunyan Christian School Update**, which is included in this prayer letter.

Thank you for taking the time to read this lengthy update and praise report. We appreciate your prayers and investment for and in this work of reaching El Salvador for Christ. We are encouraged by your faithfulness.

Joyfully in His service,

Henry Gonzalez