

Missionaries in Cost Rica

Since 2006

Church Planting,

Soulwinning,

Discipleship,

Children's Homes,

Feeding Ministries,

Refuge Homes and

Family Restoration

The Bickel Family

Ryan, Lauri, Deborah, Rebecca,
Daniel, Ruth, Andrés, Lourdes, Karen,
Julie, Gael, Samantha (and many more)

2015 (page 1)

This year was undoubtedly the most difficult we have ever had in our family and ministry. We often face difficulties but they pass quickly and we just keep going! This year was different though... It just didn't seem to let up. As we review the past year we are going to let you see inside and hopefully understand both the trials and blessings.

Physical trials.

- The year started out with our 15-year-old son breaking his hip from just a simple fall in the kitchen. We later learned it was because he has osteoporosis. When they looked at his x-ray the doctor said that he has the bones of an 80-year-old and there are no promises of what the future holds. His life changed overnight and we watched him go from a happy and always smiling teen to often becoming discouraged and angry inside.
- A one-year-old in our children's home had issues with her heart pausing while she slept. We really didn't know from one day to the next if we would just find her dead one morning. Praise God the children's hospital was able to install a pacemaker and she was reunited with her family!
- Our now two-year-old suffered such severe asthma attacks and on many occasions we did not think he would make it. It was doubtful that he would live to be two years old due to underdeveloped lungs but he is now two and a half!
- There have been several other children in our home having lung or heart issues. We also had several young people that we work with die.
- Most recently our daughter Deborah has been having heart problems and was unable to stand up to teach even a short Bible lesson. Thankfully it is mostly controlled with medication now and she has far more good days than bad!



Prayer Requests:

- * Souls Saved
- * Church Planting
- * Feeding Ministry
- * Children's Home
- * Lauri's Health
- * God's Provision
- * Deborah's Health

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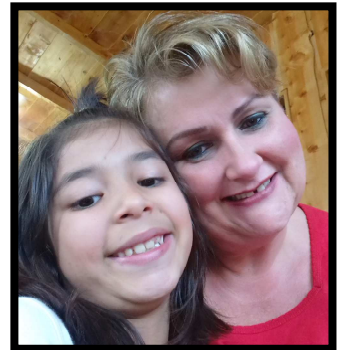
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Emotional and Spiritual Trials.

- The children we work with have often suffered extreme abuse and been hurt very badly. This tends to come out in different forms. We had one child try to kill another and other children attack us. Though this has happened in the past it was not to the degree we have recently faced.
- We had people we loved and sacrificed for turn on us and defame us publicly.
- There have been people going door to door trying to destroy the ministry.
- We also had people coming to our home threatening those we were trying to protect.
- Lauri faced the majority of the attacks since she works closely with many moms and abused ladies. This escalated to the point that her life was being threatened.



Oh What Blessings!!

We also saw a year that was filled with blessings like we have never had before!

- There were more people who trusted Christ than ever!!!
- We spent a good bit of time repairing relationships that were under attack and we were actually able to build more confidence in the community!
- The Ngäbe people have learned to trust Christ more and now really understand that we love them and will be there for them no matter what comes their way or even ours.
- The people are truly growing in Christ!
- God also blessed the ministry with a bus that we use for bringing people to church and local transportation of groups!
- The feeding ministry has grown and is taking place more nights a week.
- We have now had a total of 73 children in the children's home. Many have only stayed with us for a brief time but for that time they felt the unconditional love of our family and Christ!
- God brought several abused ladies and their children our way so that we could give refuge for a time, share the Gospel and find them a safe place to go.



2016

We are pleased to announce that one of our feeding centers is now being sponsored by Manna Worldwide. They were recommended to me by fellow Baptist missionaries in Panama who have several feeding centers sponsored by Manna. Agnes Baptist Church in Agnes, Texas has decided to be the 'anchor' for the first feeding center. We are praying that other churches would be willing to consider taking on a project like this for the other existing and new feeding centers that we are starting. Yes, I said new! In the next few weeks a third center will begin. What an opportunity to invest in the lives and eternity of these children and their families! We have also have had many inquiries from people interested in sponsoring a child in the children's home. We are praying that some individuals or even Sunday school classes would consider sponsoring of a child. If you are interested, please let us know. We are looking forward to this new year and the great things God has instore. As always, you are invited to come and see! Our doors are open and you would be welcome. You would get to know the people, their need and the work here that only God can do!

Your Servant in Costa Rica,