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Evangelize to make disciples. Disciple to make evangelists. Rest in the Millennium!

Dear friends and family,

This will be the last update letter of the year. The next time I write, we will be well into 2010! This last year was a year of slow growth, and we have plans to continuing growing (maybe a little faster?) in 2010.

2009: THE BIG NEWS IS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

This year we began a specific focus on leadership development here at Eastside Church. God has given us many men that are potential leaders in the Lord's work, and it was time they challenge themselves to grow through the next stage of discipleship (leadership development). I taught several of the men a class on personal Bible study methods and expository preaching, and then I turned over the mid-week Bible study to them. As always, growth is "slow and painful," but it's also "slow and sure." They have grown considerably through the systematic study and preaching of God's Word.

We have also seen several people get involved in discipleship under the leadership of Simón. I turned the discipleship ministry over to Simón earlier this year, and he has done a fantastic job coordinating and leading this key area of our church. I look forward to seeing what God has in store for him in the near future.

2010: WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR NEXT YEAR?

A BUILDING. One of the changes we made in the leadership structure in the church was in the area of administration. I now have the help of four capable men! They got the legal aspects of the church all up to date, and are working on getting things squared away at the bank. We're hoping that this year we can buy a place of our own, a "home for our church family." We would appreciate your prayers for this.

A DISCIPLESHIP PHILOSOPHY. Many of you know that I put together some discipleship materials that we (and other Hispanic ministries) are using. It's good material, and we are very pleased with it. But, I'm not satisfied with the overall "philosophy" of how we view and approach the

ministry of discipleship. So, this year, one of my goals is to study out discipleship and then put together some teaching material on a biblical philosophy of making disciples. I think that will help people to see their personal part in the Great Commission and help them also to see how they can participate in the work.

AN ENGLISH SERVICE. For a long time I've thought about the idea of doing an English service on Sundays or an English Bible study during the week, and I think 2010 will be the year we start that. I have several native English speakers that are close to the ministry here, and it may also draw in some others that want to "practice" their English. Be looking for the announcement on the web site because I plan to make the audios available each week.

EVANGELISM. DISCIPLESHIP. PREACHING. In 2010, Lord willing, we will continue to evangelize intentionally, disciple those the Lord gives us, and preach the Bible expositionally. The rainy season is almost over, and we should have a couple of months of good weather for street work. I'm looking forward to that! (I would love to get down to Panama this year and preach on the university campuses. There are fourteen major universities down there, and I think it would be wonderful to go and talk to the students and professors about the Lord. If you would, pray about that with me.) Simón will continue as leader of our discipleship ministry, and we'll be working together on the development of a solid, biblical philosophy of discipleship. And, as I finish up our Sunday series on Systematic Theology in January, we are planning on starting a series on the Book of Leviticus. Those of you who have heard teaching on Leviticus know what an incredible book it is, and I'd like to share that blessing with my people (feed God's sheep!).

Thank you all very much for your prayers, friendship, and support. In August of 2010 we will have been in Latin America for fifteen years. KCBT sent us out in August of 1995, and the Lord (through you guys and your faithful support and prayers) has kept us here for almost fifteen years. He's good! And you, our friends, family, and supporters, have been faithful. Thank you all very much!

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Check out our web site for pictures, videos, and news about what's going on: www.greg-and-sue.com