
Prayer Letter from the Bickel Family

1 message

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To: pleasantvillebaptist@gmail.com

Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 10:12 PM

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Central BAPTIST

Pastor Doug Harris
Lead Pastor

Pastor Doug Kaler
Administrative Pastor

Jacob Teekel
Student Pastor

October 25, 2022

Dear Fellow Pastor and Church Family,

I first want to thank you for your generous and faithful support of Ryan and Lauri Bickel, our missionaries to Costa Rica. As you well know, Ryan and Lauri have served faithfully on the field since 2006. They have been active in church planting, feeding centers and rescuing neglected and abandoned children. They have recently had some new doors of opportunity opened to them as they are now training national pastors for ministry.

The nature of their ministry has prohibited them from taking a traditional furlough. They have cared for more than 140 children since 2009; some of these children came to their home for a few days, others for years, and several have been formally adopted by the Bickel's. Many of these children are placed with them by child protective services, as a result it is difficult for Ryan and Lauri to leave the country together for more than a week or two at a time.

This means that the Bickel family is continuing to live upon the same level of monthly support that they raised almost two decades ago. Naturally they have lost support from a few churches over the years, and some of their churches have given them raises from time to time, but with current inflation, and new ministry opportunities they are finding it hard to make ends meet.

I writing to ask you to prayerfully consider doing two things. First, would you consider giving them a raise in their monthly support? As their sending church, we have already committed to do so. Secondly, would you be willing to share their ministry with some of your Pastor friends who might be willing and able to become new ministry partners with them? Although it will be difficult for them to leave the field and present their ministry in person, they would be able to meet with prospective churches and pastors virtually.

Also, please know that they would be able to do a virtual meeting with your church family as well if you would so desire.

Thank you again for your support of the Bickel family and your for consideration of giving them additional support. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Serving the Savior,

Douglas W. Harris
Lead Pastor

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November 2022

Anniversary

September 25th was our 29-year wedding anniversary. Through reward points and the kindness of others, we were able to get away for a week. This was not only needed but such a blessing. During these 29 years, we went from being a military family in the Navy to serving full-time as missionaries. We are humbled

that he would use us and allow us to share our lives with one another! God has been so very good to us!

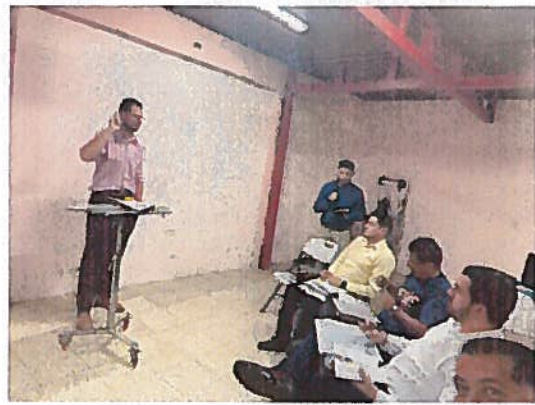


Deborah

We are so thankful that Deborah is healing well. Although she has had a few bad days, overall she is making great progress. The back of her skull will remain open inside with that section of her head no longer having bone. The healing process normally takes at least one year. That will be February of next year. She will need to have an MRI to check everything in January of 2023. Thankfully, she has been able to maintain her ministry and virtual classes. We really appreciate your continued prayer for her, the needed MRI, and that there are no complications with the healing process.

Support

With this update, we have included a letter from our sending pastor. ([You can download it here](#)). We are operating on a support level based on our survey trip taken in 2003. We have received some additional support over the years and some lower amounts since COVID. Please prayerfully consider the words of our pastor and what God may have you do! We appreciate your faithfulness in both prayers and support!



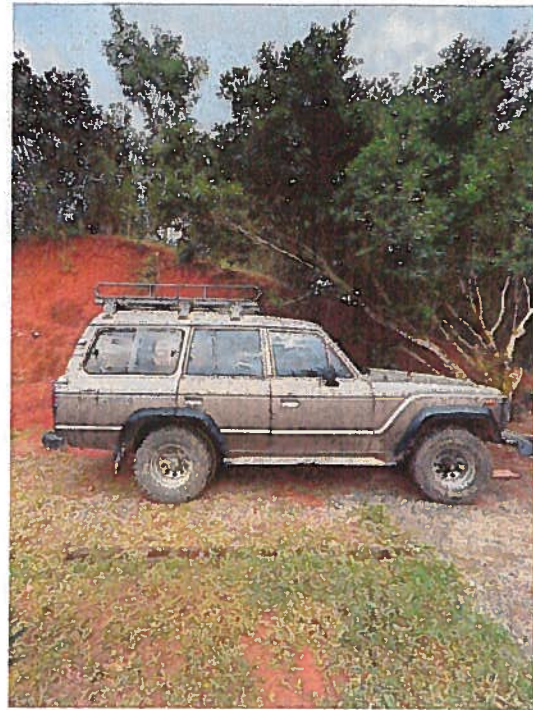
Bible Institute/Training Pastors/Ministry

We have several upcoming events for the ministry. In addition to preaching here in Costa Rica, I have been invited into the reservation in Panama. I will be traveling to Panama on the 18th of November into a somewhat remote part of the reservation. I will be preaching Saturday and Sunday before returning to Costa Rica. There are several pastors coming who want me to set up Biblical leadership training so they can in turn train others on the reservation. What a blessing to be able to help reach these areas!

In December we will be holding two very large Christmas activities to be a blessing to over 150 children in two different locations. The first of these will be in Santa Maria and the Second in the Southern Zone very near the border of Panama. This is always an opportunity to show Christ's love to others.

Family

We were blessed to finalize the adoption of Ana and Jaime. They have been in our home for over 7 years. Their new adoptive names are Ariana Jazmín Bickel and Samuel Jaime Bickel! Thankfully the transition for all the kids has been very smooth. They love their new schools, both elementary and high school. They are all doing very well grade-wise as well! The transition was one only God could have orchestrated! We also have a new family picture that you can download at [this link](#).



Vehicle

God gave us a 4x4 at the beginning of 2014. It's a 1988 Toyota Land Cruiser. It has served us well all these years and has been very needed to get into our more remote rural locations. This past month it died completely. One mechanic told us it could not be fixed, and another was at least willing to try if we can get it towed there. If it cannot be repaired, we may be able to sell it for parts. The price we will get will be nowhere close to what it would take to replace it. We have the car that God gave Lauri through a church in Texas. It is a major help because, being automatic, Lauri can drive it. However, this car is not best for entering remote locations and only holds 5 people. This means that we cannot take the entire family anywhere right now. Please pray about this as it is a major need.

Dates

Just a few reminders:

- If there are any gifts/donations to be used towards Christmas, we would need to receive them during the month of November. This month's support closes out on November 22nd. Anything that arrives after that will be included in the following month's deposit.
- In December CMC's closeout date is December 15th. Anything received after that date we will not get until February 1st. This is a very long and difficult stretch. Much of our support arrives near the end of the month so we are asking, if possible, to keep this early cutoff date in mind.

Your Servant in Costa Rica
Ryan Bickel



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