

# Year in Review

## The Befus Report

### Our God of Blessings

We have been blessed by our God! He is so faithful, present, and working. Paul tells us of our faithful God who blesses us in all our needs as he speaks to the Philippian believers saying,

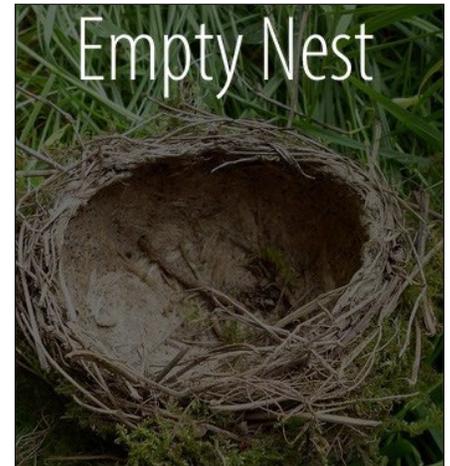
***This Same God Who Takes Care of Me Will Supply All Your Needs from His Glorious Riches, Which Have Been Given to Us in Christ Jesus.  
Philippians 4:19***

In the Old Testament, God states through Isaiah His promise to the faithful in Israel,

***For I Will Pour Out Water to Quench Your Thirst and To Irrigate Your Parched Fields.  
And I Will Pour Out My Spirit on Your Descendants, And My Blessing on Your Children.  
Isaiah 44:3***



We have had a year of blessings from God! Our ninth child, Thane (pictured left), is now at Grace Christian University as a freshman and this means nine children have now gone to GCU. That makes us a bit more of an older couple with no children in the home and we now begin a new stage of being empty nesters (“honeymooners” as we call it). We are geared up to enjoy, after 34 years of having children, our return to being just the two of us. However, we do have one of our grandkids, Koen (5 months old - pictured left with his mama), living near us in Costa Rica.



We just returned from a trip to the West Coast missions conferences with great missionaries (see picture below right) where we were blessed by the churches and Christians we met and mixed with along the way.

Meanwhile, in Costa Rica and the ministry here, God has blessed our church in the purchase of a piece of land that begins a second building proj-



ect with all the difficulties and blessings this brings. (Some difficulties: five months and counting without permissions for building, electricity, and water; therefore, we have had four robberies, one in which our container was broken into and we lost our generator, all of our sound system and two computers.) But our ministries continue and we are growing as we go out each week to invite people to our new church and tell them about Jesus Christ so they can know Him as we do. We invite them to our connection groups (see

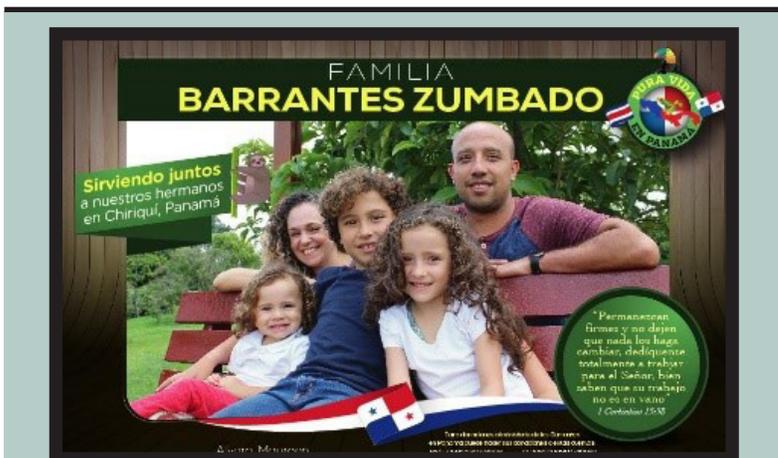
photos below), our retreats, and our church and incorporate them into our family. Pray for many new faces as they come with needs and hopes of a new life.

We also have the blessing of our first missionary family already living in David, Panama. Here in Costa Rica, we are excited about working with them there in Panama.

Keep us in your prayers. We are excited to see what God will do tomorrow! He is blessing us in so many ways.

Thank you God! Please keep praying for us! We love you!

Chuck and Joy Befus



### Alvaro's development as a leader in our church as part of his story in becoming a GMI missionary.

Alvaro married a wonderful gal, Mauren, from our church here in Costa Rica. She loves God and ever since her teenage years desired some day to be a missionary. She was a huge influence in Alvaro's coming to the Lord as his Savior and as they grew together and towards God and had children (losing their first child at birth) they both began to see what was and is truly important. Alvaro came to me to study our Grace doctrine with a desire to be a leader, eventually a pastor, and maybe some day a missionary. He saw that he could be and was a leader. He became the pastor of youth in our church and began to study with me once a week and then began to attend the Bible institute. We called him to be one of our lead pastors of our church and was in charge of the missions and missionary planning for the church.

When I asked Alvaro his thoughts about the roles of Joy and me in his life, here is a condensed version of what he wrote:

"First, what struck me was seeing the way Chuck and Joy raised their children. I could always see in their children men and women with gifts, talents and desires to serve God and others being obedient to their parents. ...Then I could also see how easy and simple Chuck explained the Bible. Also, working with Chuck in Talamanca showed me how much he loved the lost and how much courage he had in explaining and bringing the message to the unreached....and Chuck's testimony in being faithful to continue the work despite all the difficulties and even betrayals over the years. Chuck and his family have been consistent, obedient, and have shown God's grace to many people who at some point did not show it to them and that is a very impactful testimony."