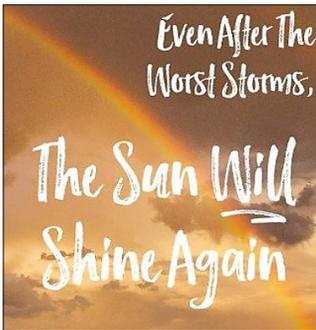


The Befus Report

from Costa Rica



Spring has come after the winter and spring showers bring May flowers! The Bible puts it this way: **"Weeping may last for the night, but a shout of joy comes in the morning"** Psalms 30:5. It also says, **"God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose"** Rom. 8:28. And, **"be still and know that I am God"** Psalms 46:10. And finally, **"He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power"** Is. 40:29.

When we last wrote you, we had traveled through months of difficulty with the knowledge of our parents' coming deaths and then their actual homegoing. It was a stormy time yet one of hope in Jesus



Christ. Now that the storm has passed, we have seen blessing upon blessing. Let's tell you about some of them.



We had a great family time together at the turn of the new year with all 24 of our Befus family together (with 7 grandchildren) in a large house right on Lake Michigan. That number included Owen Charles, who had been born to Caleb and Mary on November 6, and Nick Pilienci who was engaged to be married to Elenrae and is now a full-fledged member of the Befus clan (they were married May 3). That number has now grown to 25 as Terrah gave birth to Finley Joy on January 29, and in June it will be 26 when Erin and Arturo have their baby boy, Koen. Wow!



What a blessing!



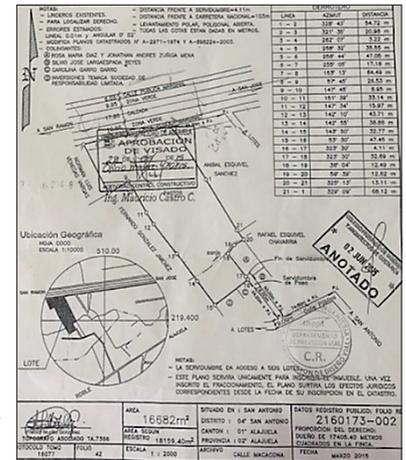
In the final months of 2018, our church began a prayer emphasis with a large committee of more than 20 people to motivate and dedicate our time and ministries towards purchasing a plot of land. Iglesia Biblica de la Gracia (Grace Bible Church) in the city of Alajuela is the church we helped to establish and where we are now developing leaders to guide the congregation in the future, plant other churches, and serve the Lord in missions. What began as a God-dependent, committed group of people was very quickly

rewarded by God with the possibility of buying a large piece of land for our church right off the main highway with an enormous number of neighborhoods—we could see how God was working His wonders.

The owner of this piece of real estate had hoped to sell her land to us seven months earlier only to find out the land could only be used for industrial purposes. For the next several months, she had her lawyer pursue a change in city rules to allow for a church also. She did this unbeknownst to us. In February, she called and said the laws had been worked out so a church could buy the land, and sure enough, she was again offering us her land. What a God thing! Then she stated, against her lawyers wishes, that



she wanted the same offer we had given her seven months before, even though she would lose \$35,000+. Another God thing! What a project we have for many years to come! Maybe your church would like to make plans to come help us out as we build a church and ministry center?



It was at this same time that Alvaro and Mauren Barrantes and their family went to the States to begin their missionary deputation for six months. Alvaro and Mauren are the first missionaries to come from our church in Costa Rica—they are raising their support to serve the Lord in Panama. We sure hope you have had a chance to get to know them! They are a super family ready to be missionaries. God is sending out great people to share His grace. Here in Costa Rica, we are excited about working with them when they get to Panama.



Let me tell you of just one more story of God's "working together for good." Luis is a man who first came to our church with a friend. He was silent and I mean not a word. He would come in, sit down, and observe. When asked questions he replied with hardly a grunt. He began going to a Bible study and then to a connection group—always saying nothing. In a men's retreat we had a few weeks back, there was more time to talk, ask questions, and get to know Luis. To make a long story short, he was a very depressed man whose wife had abandoned him, he had lost two kids, and he was ready for death; but now he is a Christian, understanding his new life in Christ, with a God and a new family to help him in his struggles.

It is springtime! Thank you, God! Keep praying for us! We love you!

Chuck and Joy Befus