



Greetings in the love of Christ!

It is amazing to think that Thanksgiving is this week and that Christmas is around the corner! 2017 is almost gone!!! On Wednesday nights here at Berea we have been preaching through the book of Daniel and covering a lot of Eschatology (the study of the end times), and one of things that this study has done for me is renewed my excitement for the Lords return for His Bride! Not only is life short, but our time until the return of Christ is also short! I believe we truly are living in the last days! And I must ask myself, Am I living each day and ministering each day as if it were my last? Do I really get up every morning and look at the clouds in expectancy of the Rapture? Do you? May we serve the Lord with zeal and love every day and truly learn to walk with Him every day that we have left! Maranatha!

Out of everything that we have to report on, our big news this past 6 weeks is for sure the new building for our church! Some of you may have seen on Facebook the video we made of the new building the Lord has provided for us. It is over a 400 square meters, right downtown (one block off the main street), lots of parking close by, and with easy directions and access. The one problem with it was the price... they wanted over \$3,500 a month! But, after walking away from the deal they came back and offered us a 1 year contract for \$1,800 a month. Of course we jumped on it, and now a month later we have completely renovated the place and now have a sanctuary where we can fit about 150 people! We also have a foyer, fellowship / receiving area, two large classrooms, a storage room, and two bathrooms. After praying for this need for over 3 months it has been a special blessing to see the Lord answer our need in the way that He has! Rejoice with us for how the Lord has blessed in this need!

Over the last few months the Lord has continued to bring in visitors every week, and as it always is, some of the visitors walk in and leave never to be seen again, but praise the Lord for the new people who have stayed and are becoming a part of our church family. I can not tell you about all of them, but allow me to tell you two stories. Jaquelin is from Venezuela, and since she arrived in Aruba had been looking for a Bible preaching church. She said that she had visited over a dozen churches and knew that none of them were the right place. Then one day when we were working on the new building, she was walking by, saw the new church sign, and poked her head into the building to asked if there was going to be services that Sunday. Long story short, she has since come faithfully to the services and says,

"This is the church that I was looking for!" Another new family at Berea is Brother Celestino, his wife Jesula, and their two daughters. He is from the Dominican Republic, she is from Haiti, and they had been attending a charismatic type church for several years, but they were looking for a Baptist church. Another lady that had visited us before suggested they come and visit Berea, and again, once they came they have become a faithful part of Berea's family! It still amazes me how the Lord brings new people and fills the place of those that move on. Just last night we finished a 3 month Bible Discipleship class with two Colombian brothers in Christ who both have plans of returning to their country soon. Of course it is sad to see a new believer who is growing and maturing have to relocate elsewhere, and it is a little nerve-racking to realize that many of them go back to cities or villages where there is no good Bible church, but we are learning more every day to trust in the Lord's perfect timing and placement! He brings them in, He takes them out, and then He brings in somebody else to fill the vacant place to learn and serve. Please pray for us that we might know how to properly disciple these new believers and wisely invest in them while we can. Also, help us pray for these believers that go home and have no church to go to; the need for more churches, more church planters, more pastors, and more vision and valor to reach out is so great! Please don't stop praying, giving, and maybe even going... the need is here, there, and everywhere! What are we doing about it? Can we do more? Life is flying by; please consider how you invest it!

Over the last few months we have been praying for a new vehicle for running bus routes for the church here in Aruba. We want to praise the Lord for Storm Lake Baptist Church in Iowa, and two generous individuals who have helped us raise a total of 4,750 for a van from Japan! We are in the process of choosing the best van for what we have, and should soon have it here and running people to church!



On Saturdays we have a total of about 18 students taking music classes in Guitar, Piano, Recorder, and Ukulele.



Here is our new auditorium with the Sunday morning crowd a few weeks ago.

Please pray for Matt as he will be in Georgia and Florida the first 12 days of December for a family conference and a missions conference. Both activities are at Spanish churches, we have lost some support recently and are excited about the possibility of starting relationships with some new churches. If there is anyone in the GA or FL area that is interested; Wednesday the 6th is open for a service if anyone wants Matt to swing by. If so please let us know at mnshields@hotmail.com as soon as possible.



Here are some of the church ladies at one of their bi-monthly reunions. It is just one of many ministry outreaches with the purpose of edifying the believers, reaching the lost, and enjoying the fellowship among believers.

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