

Jacob, Leidy, & Oliver



FALL UPDATE
2025 | NOVEMBER

Hi Everyone,

Well, it's November—and before winter settles in and the Christmas season takes over—we wanted to squeeze in our Fall update!

I know it says *6 pages* (yikes!), but don't worry... it's mostly pictures, so it won't take long to read. If you're really short on time, you can always skip to the end and read ChatGPT's one-sentence summary we included—but honestly, it probably won't be as fun as reading what *real people* wrote.

Let's dive in...

US

First, thank you for all your prayers—for both our health and our ongoing vehicle adventures. We're happy to report that we have a new car (huge help!), and Oliver has been feeling great. However, we're still trying to figure out some health issues for Leidy. Her cortisol levels have been spiking at night, and so far, we don't know why. She's already done some tests and will repeat them in December to see if anything has changed. Lately, she's been feeling pretty worn down and low on energy. Please keep her in your prayers as we wait for more answers.

Aside from that, we've been doing well and are looking forward to our "summer" here in December. It'll be nice to slow down a bit before El Nido starts up again in mid-to-late January. We've also started looking for flights for our visit to Canada in the summer of 2026! Once we have confirmed dates, we'll let you know so we can start scheduling visits. We can't wait to see as many of you as possible. While we're back, we also hope to run some fundraisers to finish paying off the building—so if you have creative ideas or would like to organize one, please reach out!



REUNIÓN

Our church plant just wrapped up a sermon series on Proverbs. One message focused on Proverbs 17:22—“A joyful heart is good medicine...”—and that verse has really stuck with me. It’s the kind of joy that exists even in seasons of sadness.

Recently, we lost a dear friend’s father and one of our own church members. It was sudden and hard. Our friend, his family, and our whole community have been grieving together. Yet, even in the sadness, there have been pockets of laughter and warmth as we remembered his life. It reminded us that joy doesn’t erase sorrow—it shines through it.

Strangely enough, it was deeply encouraging to see how our community grieved *together* that Sunday morning when we received the news. We were reminded once again of how blessed we are to have this church family.

In a couple of weeks, Jimmy, who oversees church planting for the BIC denomination, will be visiting. We’re really looking forward to his time here, helping us dream and plan for what another church community could look like in our city. We’re grateful for the BIC’s support and investment, even from afar.

A woman with dark hair is shown in profile, holding a baby. The baby is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. In the background, there is a window with a grid pattern and a door with a green sign that says "SALIDA DE EMERGENCIA". Another person is visible in the background near the window.

EL NIDO

As I write this, I'm surrounded by the sounds of babies crying, giggling, and testing their vocal cords—it's a full house these days! The program is growing quickly, which is wonderful (and sometimes a bit overwhelming), but we've been blessed with new, committed volunteers, and that has made a big difference.



And here's the big news: Leidy is heading to the United Nations in New York City!

She was invited through our partnership with the Mennonite Central Committee (MCC). Last year, MCC invited us to participate in a global project called "Drawing Hope," where children from around the world drew pictures of what peace looks like in their countries. Both El Nido and Reunión took part—and to our surprise, MCC contacted us again and offered to cover all of Leidy's expenses to present *El Nido* during a week-long peacebuilding seminar at the UN.

Leidy will first share in a presentation with the "Drawing Hope" participants and then join various roundtables, seminars, and discussions. It's her first trip to the U.S.—and all in English!—

so she's nervous but excited. (And I'm sure everyone reading this knows she'll do great.) Please pray for safe travels, a meaningful experience, and new connections for El Nido while she's there.

We're also preparing for our big graduation on November 27, celebrating the girls who started the program two years ago! It will also double as our Christmas party for the new group. Some of the new mothers are facing very tough emotional and economic challenges, and a few of their babies have had health issues. Please pray for wisdom, strength, and provision as we walk with them in this season.



Things here are moving at about a mile a minute, but we're grateful. As Christmas approaches, we're looking forward to things slowing down and to having a much-needed break in January.

Thank you for loving us, supporting us, praying for us, and encouraging us. We want you to know that you are *part of this work*. God's faithfulness and kindness continue to amaze us as He builds these projects through all of us. Please feel free to write—ask questions, share news, or let us know how we can be praying for you and your communities.

We hope you experience deep and lasting joy this season and in the one to come.

With love,

Jacob, Leidy & Oliver

P.S. - As promised, here is the one sentence summary:

Amid ongoing health challenges and busy ministry life, our family is grateful for God's faithfulness as El Nido grows, Leidy prepares to present at the UN, Reunión continues to deepen in community, and we look forward to rest, renewal, and future plans ahead.

(I think ours was better.)

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