

UPDATE FROM COSTA RICA

April 11, 2014

It is hard for me to believe that April 4th marked an entire month since I arrived in Costa Rica. I must admit time seems to be flying by not only because I keep busy but also because I enjoy every moment I am blessed to have here. I totally feel at home as I live and work every day and I walk to and from places such as the Institute office or the grocery store. Some of my walking adventures can be several kilometers per trip but sometimes it is a shorter walk as I head to a bus stop to get to locations too far for me to walk.

I continue to work with the Bible Institute, *Instituto Internacional de Teologia Biblica* with Fe Mutua both in the teaching ministry at various sites and in their local office. Teaching any given class takes hours of prep and prayer. I am currently teaching a class in Tres Rios called the "Armor Bearers of God" and taught the introduction to a new class in Perez Zeledon a couple of weeks ago called, "Introduction to the Bible, Part 2" which is a required course. I have been working on my notes to teach "Personal Evangelism" the end of this month and will start a new class, "The Ministry of Helps" on April 30th.

I have also been invited to minister the Word in a local church in Turrialba on April 23rd. It will take over three hours to get there by bus. I will be spending the night there as the meeting is Wednesday evening and there are no buses that travel back to San Jose that late at night.



Teaching in Perez Zeledon

It is always a blessing when I am asked to pray with people in their homes and visit with them while drinking a delicious cup or two of Costa Rican coffee afterwards.

I experienced "a whole lot of shaking going on" on two different occasions thus far. One was several tremors in a row on a Wednesday morning two weeks ago. The other was just a few minutes ago but this time it was a long, steady shaking. Yesterday, an earthquake measuring 3.8 degrees on the Richter scale jolted the Pacific coast of Nicaragua which is Costa Rica's "next door neighbor" but it was reported that there were no casualties or damages.

Next week is Semana Santa (Holy Week) and many people take this time to go on family vacations since all government offices and many businesses close for the entire week. I am told that some stores and businesses will only close Thursday and Friday. Today is a national holiday in the country and already there is less traffic in the streets. Very interesting...

This is all for now. I so appreciate your faithful financial support, prayers and e-mails. Thank you for standing with me as I delight in serving the Lord here in this season...

In His Love and Service,

Virginia R. Escobar