

# The Hiebert Family

Chris, Angela, Mackenzie & Lukas

## VENEZUELA

**THANK YOU FOR PRAYING** for Chris & Murray Derksen as they travelled to Venezuela in November.

**CHRIS & MURRAY** spent a lot of time with Pastor Eduardo Mercon of *Encuentro con Dios* (Encounter with God). Encuentro con Dios is a young C&MA church in Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. We hope to assimilate into this church - learn the culture and language, cultivate relationships, love and support the church family - and then work together to plant other churches in the city.

**CHRIS & MURRAY** were able to meet and spend time with the greater church family. They have many cell groups that meet for Bible study and prayer and attending these was a highlight for Chris. He met many young people and families who are extremely passionate about Jesus and who are so excited to worship Him and make Him known in their city. **CHRIS & MURRAY** had an important meeting with the National Church Board of the C&MA in Venezuela. The meeting went very well. We heard many amazing things of what God is doing through the C&MA in Venezuela.

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## ¡Feliz Navidad!

We completed our first trimester at *Instituto de Lengua Española* on December 10. We are very grateful to be here in Costa Rica to learn Spanish. We have learned so much in such a short time though we have a long way to go! We appreciated the hearts with which our teachers

taught us and the love they have for Jesus. We are already looking forward to getting back into classes and routine in the New Year. The boys both enjoyed being a part of their class Christmas presentations and parties at school and it has been good to hear them asking when they get to go back!



**ERIN and ANGELA** Our cousin Erin had been studying Spanish in Guatemala for the last 3 months and we were thrilled that she was able to spend a week with us in December before heading back to Canada.



**CHRISTMAS DAY** - we were thankful to have our friends from Canada visit and share a special dinner with us to celebrate Christ's birth. In the evening, we piled into a van and enjoyed looking at the Christmas lights in San Jose.



**BILL & NANCY's** graduation from ILE. Bill and Nancy Henry (couple center of picture) are leaving to begin their work in Mexico City on January 1. We are excited for them and sad for us as we will miss them dearly! Please pray for them!

# Praying



for our boys - please pray for them as they adjust back into routine at school and for soft hearts towards Jesus

for Venezuela - please pray for Pastor Eduardo and his wife Alison and for the church in Venezuela. Please also pray for God to continue to grow our relationships and hearts...

for our studies - please pray for perseverance and joy in learning Spanish

for our hearts - please pray for spiritual health and protection - that we would grow deeper in Christ every day

WE DISCUSSED WITH the National Church Board the potential for a ministry partnership between the Alliance churches of Venezuela and our team of International Workers from Canada. They said to us: "As the Lord leads, we welcome Kelly Dyer and your family to Venezuela." This and the warm welcome from Eduardo, his wife Alison, the leadership of Encuentro con Dios and the church was overwhelming!

SUNDAY WAS A great day at Encuentro con Dios. Chris was invited to play on the worship team. He enjoyed playing bass though the Spanish worship songs were completely new to him. Later in the afternoon, Murray and Chris went to the baptism service of 6 new believers. Though Chris did not fully understand the testimonies in Spanish, he understood the power of God in their lives bringing about transformation.

CHRIS & MURRAY were also able to scout out the school that Mackenzie and



Murray and Chris with Gonzalo and Melissa. Chris met many great people while in Venezuela.



Chris had an opportunity to play bass with the worship team while visiting Caracas, Venezuela.

Lukas will possibly attend and a potential neighborhood that we may live in. Lord willing, we will find an apartment close to both the school and the future church property.

THE DAY AND the week visiting Venezuela were drawn to a close as many people from the church met at Helados 4D for their famous icecream, to visit and say good-bye.

MORE THAN EVER before we desire to serve God in Venezuela! What we have to look forward to - the amazing people, the beautiful place - makes our year studying Spanish more meaningful.

THE WEEK AFTER Chris returned from Venezuela, we had an "incident" in which we had our Macbook Pro laptop and some other things stolen from our home. The incident was disturbing not in a way in which we were sad to have our 'stuff' stolen but more in a way that we had to understand that we can't easily trust people like we are used to. Though we will not likely have our laptop returned to us and though we have not yet raised funds for ministry expenses (Work Special) such as these, God is gracious - our cousin Erin left us her laptop for us after her visit in December.

CHRISTMAS WAS A grand occasion as we had Angela's cousin Erin Langager visit for a week and then four other friends from Canada visit for two weeks. Despite being far from family in Canada, we celebrated Christ's birth with 'family' here in Costa Rica.

**THANK YOU FOR WALKING WITH US IN THE JOURNEY THIS PAST YEAR!**

## Giving

Support can be given through any C&MA Church or sent directly to the National Office at The Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada 30 Carrier Dr, Suite 100 Toronto, ON M9W 5T7 or [www.cmacan.org](http://www.cmacan.org)

Donations are tax deductible. Please designate:

FOR **Chris & Angela Hiebert's Vehicle Fund**  
FOR **Chris & Angela Hiebert's Work Special**