

The Hiebert Family

Chris, Angela, Mackenzie & Lukas

January 2012



Happy New Year!

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

In retrospect, Christmastime was a bridge of sorts to a new focus and a new season of life for us here in Caracas, Venezuela. Our first few months here were all about get-

ting with questions about the possibilities for the future. Life now is much less about making a home as it is about just "getting on with it"!

Angela's brother Richard was able to come for a visit over Christmas and this was good for us on so many levels. The first week he was here was a busy one for us with meetings and commitments and our first opportunity to lead worship at our church in Spanish. We were able to show Richard quite a lot of the city and introduce him to our Church family and Venezuelan friends. We were invited to explore a bit more of this country by some of these friends during the week between Christmas and New Years. Though we saw a mere fraction of Venezuela, we are in awe of God's creativity - this country is absolutely stunning! **Since Richard's visit**, we have had interesting and encouraging meetings with Venezuelan pastors and



Thanks to so many who gave - ultimately **THANKS BE TO GOD!** for providing us with a 2006 Nissan X-Trail!

We have less than \$3000 to raise before it is fully paid for!

ting orientated in every way. Since the new year, however, we are finding that our passion is growing, that our interest is peaked and that our hearts and minds are overflowing

We are so thankful...

The full story about how we came to buy a vehicle is one that only God could write. God extravagantly provided a wheelchair van for a couple here who were in great need and provided for us by allowing us to purchase their Nissan X-Trail. We shared the full story on the blog if you would like to know more. The gift of the vehicle has allowed us, and our teammate Kelly Dyer, more freedom to move around the city and become more involved in the lives of Venezuelans. Thank you for praying with us and for giving.

Praying with and for us:

We have shared things we are praying about throughout this letter. In addition, please pray for....

Our Day to Day... That we would be sensitive to the Spirit's leading and be courageous.

Resident Visas... currently we are having to leave the country every 3 months. Please pray that the obstacles would be removed and that we would be able to apply and

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Chris & Angela, with their boys Mackenzie (7) and Lukas (5), are International Workers with the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada. They are serving in Caracas, Venezuela which is in the "Sun" Region - one of 4 in the 4 S Venture. More information on this and more can be found at : www.cmalliance.ca

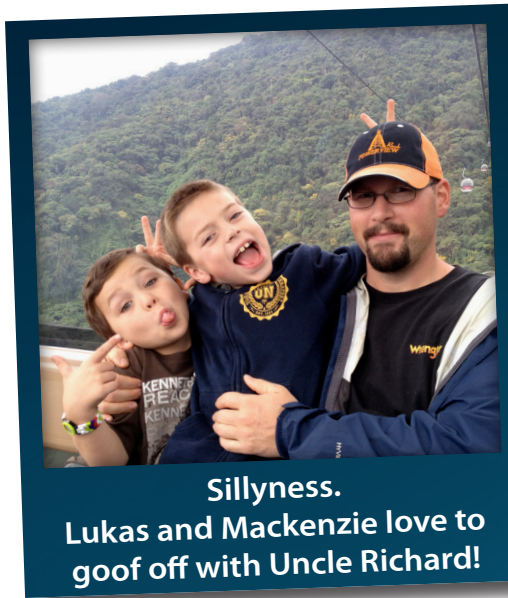


leaders. We know our spanish is growing because of the depth of conversations that we have been able to have but we also realize how far we have yet to go as we learn to ask questions. These leaders carry a heavy load with much passion and perseverance. One alliance pastor we met with last week shared with us a bit of her story: Her husband was the lead pastor and when he passed away, she was asked to become the interm pastor of the church. Last year, she was asked to become the lead pastor with the help of another pastoral couple and leader under her. She humbly shared with us that while not easy, it is God who gives her the ability to lead and she is thankful. After spending a year training small group leaders, they launched 8 cell groups in October and these cell groups have already multiplied to 13 groups spread throughout

ten feel that without deeper command of the language, how can we possibly help? . . . But in the same breath, we continue to know that God has brought us here and we are so thankful that it is possible through and in Him.

Our ministry involvement continues to grow as we have become more settled. It has been both stretching and a blessing as we learn and serve. We also meet with our language tutor one day a week to work through "home-work" and we study during the week. Isabel is a Venezuelan who loves her country and is a willing tutor of both the language and the culture. She gives us freedom to "practice" speaking of matters of the heart and faith. Please pray for our relationship with her that we will be an encouragement and light to her.

Mackenzie and Lukas continue to settle into life here.



Sillyness.
Lukas and Mackenzie love to goof off with Uncle Richard!



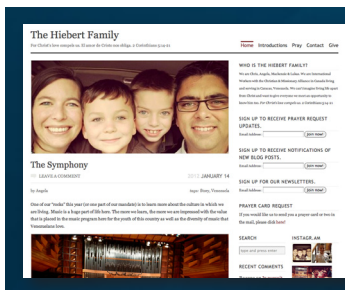
Pastor Eduardo Mércón (middle) took us on a hike overlooking our area of the city.



What better way to spend a day than in the company of Venezuelan friends!

Caracas. This is their vision in reaching Caracas for Christ. **As we continue** to seek God's heart for specific direction as to the where and how, we are also praying that we will be an encouragement and blessing to the people passionately serving God and their people. We have had pastors ask us for our help and we have had young adults asking us to share our experiences with them because they one day want to be pastors. This is both humbling and encouraging and sometimes overwhelming as we of-

We hear that they are positive additions to their classes. Lukas is adding Chinese and Korean to his languages and we were told that he loves to talk to his Venezuelan friends so much that if he doesn't know a word in Spanish, he will make one up!!! Mackenzie loves school and always seems to have a song in his head. They are at home here. We thank God for this. Please continue to pray for their hearts that they would grow in their love for Jesus and the people around them.



www.thehiebertfamily.com

Our website is a great source for up-to-date news, prayer requests, photos and information on how to support our work as International Workers with the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Canada

You can sign up to receive our newsletters, blog posts, prayer requests or all of the above

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