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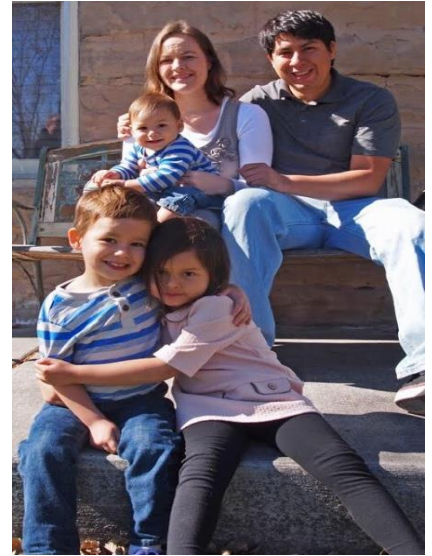
# The Melendez newsletter

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.  
Psalm 119:105.

Dear friends and family

Greetings from the Melendez family down in southern Texas.

I can't believe how much of 2017 has flown by already. I know many of you are probably starting to enjoy cool fall weather, and prepare for the even cooler winter months. We are still in the triple digits waiting for the cool weather to come! It is amazing how easy it is to adapt to our surroundings. I never thought the day would come where 40 degrees would feel so frigid. We arrived in McAllen Texas in August of 2013 for Daniel to attend Rio Grande Bible Institute. Now, 4 years later, Daniel is taking his final classes and preparing for graduation in December. We also have been serving the Lord in the church "Iglesia Biblica Cristiana Maranatha".



## MINISTRY

As of January, we have been leading the youth ministry. Our young group consists of kids aged 12 through 16. We have 2 classes on Sunday mornings where we have been going through topics that are relevant to the young generation. The youth are eager to learn, and often ask questions about how the Bible relates to their world. Recently we have been discussing issues like where God



stands on abortion, sexual purity, how to make wise decisions, and how to study and understand the Bible.

We believe that these kids need a firm foundation in God's word that they will be able to take into adulthood. Our prayer is that they would strive to know, understand, and put the principles found in the Bible into practice in their own lives. We also have a youth small group in our homes on Tuesdays. A lot of the same teens that attend Sunday meetings also attend on Tuesdays. We have been studying the lives of Moses and Joshua, and how the difficulties that we face are very similar. God's promises are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

In June, we prepared a 3-day camp for our teens. With the help of our young adults, we prepared a program with Bible classes, worship, devotionals, and games. We rented a secluded retreat site, and had a wonderful time. Every month we go out as a group to do ministry with our young people. Last month we reached out to the homeless and needy people in our community by taking food and other necessary items to people who were out on the street.



Another focal point of the ministry we are involved in is open air Bible studies. We have been leading a small group Bible study in the Milpas public park for several months now. We periodically do evangelistic outreach in the neighborhood surrounding the park. By God's grace many people have begun to regularly attend. Our prayer is to raise leaders in our small group, so that we can plant another one in another location.



Vital to ministry is not only the sharing the Gospel to the unbelievers, but also edifying our brothers and sisters in Christ. There are several men who Daniel has been counseling and encouraging. Our prayer is that husbands and fathers would embrace the responsibilities and the calling that God has given to them as men and leaders of the home. Please keep us in prayer as we continue in ministry. Pray for the people we come in contact with. Pray for us as the Lords workers. The enemy throws so many obstacles and hardships our way. It is so easy to become discouraged. It really is a daily struggle. Pray that God would give us strength to overcome, and wisdom to make the right decisions.

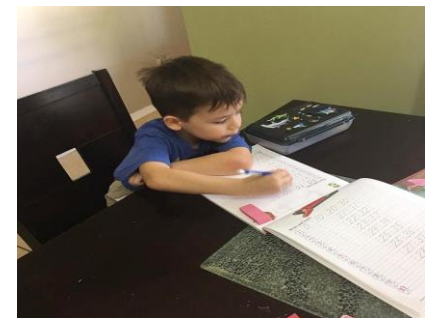
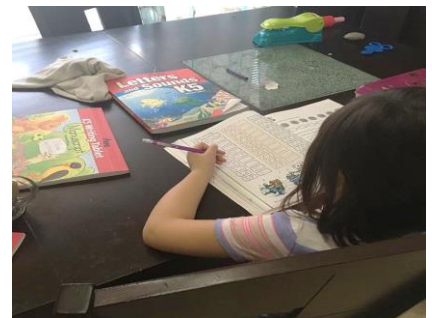


## FAMILY



We praise the Lord for our family. Our marriage and children are a beautiful blessing. We celebrated our 7<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary this past March. Our first-born twins celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday, and our big boy, who we wish were still a baby, celebrated his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday. Anna is smart and sweet. She loves to love! She always has hugs and kisses and kind words for us and her brothers.

She can't wait to grow up and be a mommy and maybe a teacher. She has such a kind heart and is a big helper. Samuel is smart and silly. He is a very focused little boy, always drawing our building something. He loves a good project and spends hours at a time building with his Legos. He has a silly streak that includes telling jokes and dancing around to music. Both Anna and Samuel are in Kindergarten. We are homeschooling, and they are both doing so well. Elias is a firecracker! He is a smart but very stubborn and determined little boy. Nothing escapes his notice, and his endless energy and crazy antics always make us laugh. He loves the guitar, firetrucks, splashing in water and RUNNING. Please keep our marriage and children in your prayers. Our prayer is that our marriage would glorify God, and that our children would continue to love Jesus as they grow.



We would like to take a moment to thank each one of you for the prayers and financial support of the ministry we are doing here in the Rio Grande Valley. Dedicating our lives to the Lord's service would not be possible without the body of Christ coming along side of us in prayers and financial support. We are

currently making plans to travel here in the USA to raise support for our continued ministry. Daniel has been working to supplement our financial needs, however, we are still in great need of funds. If you feel God placing it on your heart to partner with us to reach the lost and equip the believers you can find the information on how to do so below. Thank you again for your prayers, may God bless you all.

With love,

Daniel and Mattie Melendez. We would love to hear from you. Our contact info is as follows.

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If you would like to financially support our ministry you can do so by sending a check payable to Tent Makers Bible Mission, memo-- the Peruvian jungle project--the address is PO Box 160 -401B Highway 151 LaGrange, WY 82221

OR give online at [tentmakersbiblemission.org](http://tentmakersbiblemission.org)

Our mission project is the Peruvian Jungle project.