



## Student's Support Program

In this issue we will share with you the life story of one of our church's mother who has been benefited with the education support program and lives happily as an architect.



## Youth Concert!

In July the IBECORD youth prepared a great concert in where God received all their songs. they shared time with youth from different churches and it was a good time to praise to God. in the next issue, we will comment more about this project.



## Special visits

We had the huge blessing of having Sisters Lucy, Avida and Maria Fernanda in our country and in our church. We had a really good time with them and we are sure that God will care about them and they will be soon with us again.



## Children school

The children from the music school are assisting to our services and they have been learning more about the love of God. They participate in all the activities at church and we have notice their development every weekend.



# Last Month's Events



## Students Support Program

My name is Sarai Villatoro, I was born on September 13, 1985 in San Salvador capital El Salvador, in a decade in which the history of our country was in one of its most emblematic and painful chapters: the war. However, my parents, Francisco and Matilde, did everything possible so that no event related to that topic would affect my memories of a happy childhood. I remember that I loved staying at the house of my paternal grandparents in San Roque, on the margin and without knowledge of everything that happened in the municipality of Mejicanos between the Guerrilla and the Armed Forces.

Our family congregates in the El Cordero de Dios Baptist Church, almost from its foundation and our family and spiritual life was nourished and developed always with its accompaniment. One year before the end of the war and the signing of the peace accords, in January 1991, my parents gave me a nice gift, I had a younger sister: Ana Verónica. Who would become my playmate, accomplice of mischief, rival for the love of our parents and my best friend, just in that order. At home the discipline was always moderate, my parents, besides the fear of God and other good values for life, taught us the importance of family and perseverance. Characteristics that we apply in each of the activities and social spaces in which we are involved.



The basic and intermediate education in summary was very good, my grades were acceptable, always above the average, sometimes I achieved the goal of the year: to be the first or second place in the honor roll of my section, I suppose that a of my characteristics has always been competitiveness, it helps me to focus and visualize my objectives. Even though I did not achieve my goal of the year, that did not discourage me because for me, the new academic year represented an opportunity to do better the following year.

I do not remember exactly when I decided I wanted to do a career in Architecture, but I do remember the variables that led me down this path. One of the main reasons is El Cordero de Dios Church.

In the year 2001 in the months of January and February, El Salvador was hit, two earthquakes of similar magnitude which affected thousands of families who lost their homes and loved ones.



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As a result, the El Cordero de Dios Baptist Church and the Didcot Churches in England developed a house construction project in San Pedro Perulapán in the Department of Cuscatlán, specifically in the cantons El Rodeo and El Paraíso. The churches were in charge of managing the funds so that the community and the beneficiaries could build a decent house after the earthquakes. IBECORD youth were involved in a part of the project collaborating as we could: carry blocks, help to make the mix, load cement, etc. With all the good will and enthusiasm that is born in the heart by fulfilling one of the basic commandments left by our Lord Jesus Christ: to love one another, helping others in need.

My approach to the field of construction was an edifying learning, admiring not only the capacity of the brothers of the church to formulate this project, but also experiencing with great enthusiasm the realization of a house, which would become the home of one of the families of the community organized in the project.

The second reason, why I joined this race and I mentioned it to the sister in question, was the positive impact that inspired me the leadership of a woman in a field that was typically at that time and still is in these modern times, dominated by men. In that and many other ways, sister María Delia Ramírez Garay (Architect) has been an inspiration and personal model.

The third reason was the humanistic approach that can be added to Architecture, to carry out projects focused on meeting the needs of people who will use or develop their lives in those spaces.

I thought it was something important, as the construction of a small house can change the life of a family, a society and a whole country, and all that thanks to the love of God.

The way in which art, engineering and human needs can be combined and produce elements that contribute and promote the social and economic development of our country.

Finally, when entering my stage of higher education, all the way to here have been challenges, each one being more difficult than the previous one. However, the grace of God has never left me, and the churches of England and El Salvador, thanks to the efforts of Brother Mike Quantick, formulated a project of University Education Scholarships for young people, a program in which I was included.

I entered the University of El Salvador in the Architecture career in January 2004, and I persevered in my studies until 2009, my initial goal as that of every student, was to graduate within the period of 5 years described in the curriculum of the career.

Due to many personal circumstances, I did not achieve that initial objective, and in 2006 I met my current husband and father of my two beautiful children at the University. That is how, in March 2007, Ana Isabel Bermúdez Villatoro was born in our small family. For family reasons of my new situation as a mother and wife, I did not develop my studies in a constant way. My family and the church still, never stopped pushing me to return to my goal.

The church and the scholarship program decided to help me resume my higher education by supporting me for 2 more years. And in 2010, I entered the Polytechnic University of El Salvador, always in the architecture career from which I finally graduated in 2015.

It was a challenge for me to return to the life of a student, after experiencing life from the perspective of a mother in a country like ours. I can say that it helped me to grow and value my family much more, and the advice of my parents. It also helped me to realize that I should try harder, focus my energy on achieving my goal, not only for myself, but for the newly formed family and entrust the future decisions of my life to God.

Although the scholarship program supported me financially until 2012, the churches never stopped supporting me and being aware of me. In 2013, we added with joy and a lot of love, a new member to our family with the birth of René Daniel Bermudez Villatoro.



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Already in 2014, even as a student in my last year, God gave me the opportunity to work for a corporate architecture firm, in which to this day I am working. Initially I started as a designer artist and I am currently working as an Architect doing what I am passionate about: Payés Arquitectos Diseñadores SA de CV an architecture, design and construction firm with more than 30 years of experience, under the direction of Architect Hilda Payés, who has been my mentor and guide in the field of action of our beloved and interesting career.

Working in Payés Arquitectos, I did my thesis and I graduated, the latter being the best graduation project of my University's Architecture career in 2015 and a proposal that served as input for a national project that was carried out for FENADESAL administered by CEPA , and that was built in that same year: "Architectural Design Proposal for the Railway Museum of El Salvador" in 2015. From which we received, with much gratitude to God, a recognition by the Salvadoran Association of Engineers and Architects ASIA, in July 2016.

God has been good to me, I have seen his grace and his love every step of the way, with each person and with each circumstance he has molded me to recognize that if the goal seemed difficult or sometimes very distant, with him and for his love , for each test, he has always shown me the way to finally fulfill my objective according to his will.

I especially thank Mike Quantick, his family and all the brothers of El Cordero de Dios Baptist Church, for encouraging me to share my personal experience through this medium.

Greetings and blessings for all.

Saraí.

