



Many years ago, I heard about an unusual port in Italy. It can only be reached by sailing through a narrow channel between rocks and dangerous sandbanks. Many ships have been shipwrecked and navigation is very risky. To guide the ships safely to the port through the narrow channel, 3 lights have been installed on 3 huge poles. When the 3 lights are perfectly aligned and seen as one, the ship can proceed safely into port. If the Captain sees 2 or all 3 lights, he knows that he is on the wrong course. He must align his ship with the lights, so they all become one. The same rules of navigation apply in life: there are 3 lights that need to be aligned, 3 principles:

- 1) The Word of God-Anything that violates God's Word must be rejected. We must align ourselves with His will. (John 7:14-17; Psalm 40:8)
- 2) Circumstances-God opens and closes doors of opportunity through circumstances. We must align ourselves with the message He is sending us through the circumstances. (1 Corinthians 16:7-9)
- 3) The Holy Spirit-The Bible does not tell you where you should live, who you should marry and if you should change jobs, but the Holy Spirit will give you peace if it is God's will. We must align ourselves with God's perfect peace. (Philippians 4:6,7)

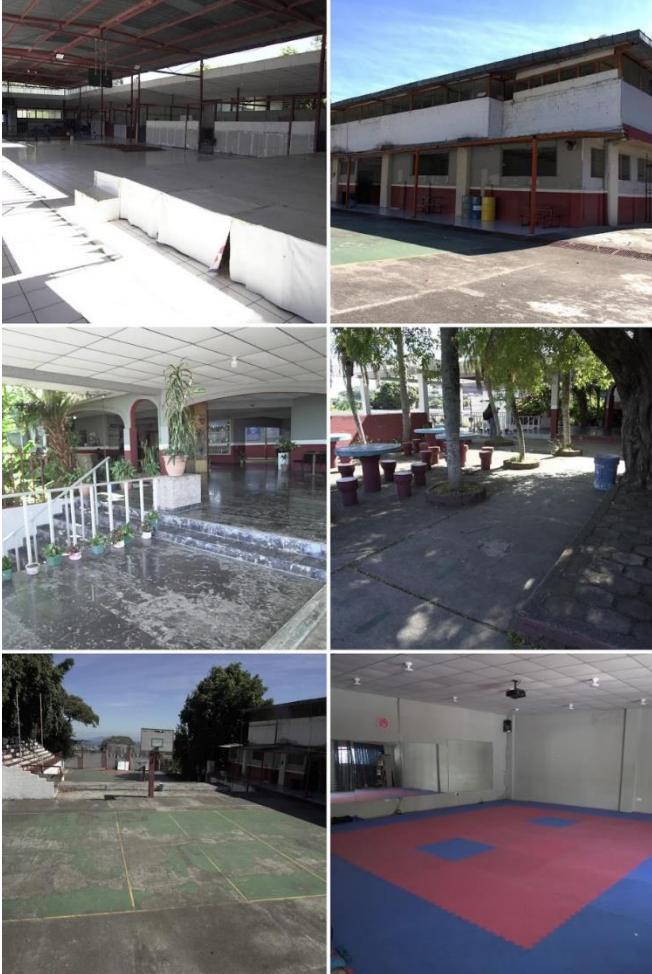


As we wrote in our last newsletter, we have reached a crossroads on finding space for our growing church. During the last 10 years, we have been able to grow by renting space for 2 new campuses in San Salvador. This has allowed us to grow from 1,000 to 2,000. But recently we had to find a new place to meet as the government took over the hotel, which we were renting, for 3 months during the elections. Since we have not been able to find a place as big for the same price, it has made us consider two alternatives:

- 1) Stop growing and stay where we are, OR,
- 2) Buy a new piece of property, develop it for our church, so we can continue growing.

We rejected option number one because it violates Principle #1 above, God's Word says in John 15:8, "*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so, shall ye be my disciples.*" Our church and ministry exist to glorify God, so we must continue bearing fruit (reaching people for Christ). We knew that option number two was the correct choice, but, How? Where? When?

This is where it was important to allow God to speak to us through the circumstances, Principle #2, and align ourselves with the message He was sending us.....



Out of nowhere, a school facility, on a prime piece of property, was put up for sale. There was only one problem, the price, \$5 million. That's where Principle #3 came into play. We prayed and prayed and discussed and discussed and God gave us peace to go ahead and put down a down payment of \$400,000. Miraculously, God had already provided the down payment before we bought the property. We wondered what that money was for. And the moment we found out what the required deposit was, we knew! We don't have the rest of the money for the purchase but unanimously had the peace of God and decided to take a HUGE step of faith. When Pam and I moved to El Salvador in the middle of a civil war in 1985, we didn't have the money either but had the peace of God. I have told the younger people in our church that they have a chance to see a great God do great things with the purchase of this property. Hebrews 11:6 doesn't say, "Without faith it's kind of hard to please God", it says "But without faith it is impossible to please God."

Since we took the HUGE step of faith in December, we have already seen some incredible things happen. The FIRST one was when the ex-Director of Public Works, who just started coming to our church and is one of the best architects in El Salvador, offered, without charge, to design the plans for the project despite being extremely busy. The SECOND one was when he told us that we needed to hire a draftsman to draw up detailed plans of the existing structures and 2 weeks later the owner of the school asked us if we could use the detailed plans that another architectural firm had drawn up when they were thinking of buying the school. The THIRD one was when a structural engineer in our church, whose name is Walter Losa (losa means "concrete slab" in Spanish which makes his last name an interesting one for a structural engineer), told us that he would do all the structural work without charge. The FOURTH one was when someone offered to give our church the \$300,000 that we needed to convert the existing school pavilion into an 800-seat auditorium so that we can start meeting in the new facility. The FIFTH one was when another member, an engineer who specializes in building pavilions, offered to help with the auditorium. The SIXTH one was when another person offered to help with the air conditioning and an LED screen for the auditorium. The SEVENTH and most recent one is the best one: someone has offered to match every dollar that we raise for the project which just cut the need almost in half. Leo used to always say, "When we ask God to amaze us, we end up being the ones who are amazed by how much He amazed us!" We feel this way with this project.

I share this with you as encouragement to show you what God is already doing and ask you to pray for the provision of the other half of the need. Any amount that a person gives to the project will now be doubled. Unbelievable! We really believe that God is doing something great, and we are excited to be a part of it!

This photo shows some of the progress on the property to convert it into a church space where God's Kingdom will continue to grow. Would you be willing to ask the Lord how He would want you to participate in this project?

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your faithfulness to God's Kingdom and this ministry!

May the Lord Bless you greatly!

Your Good News in Action
Missionaries in El Salvador and Latin America,

Steve and Pam Kern

