

THE CERNA FAMILY

MISSIONARIES IN EL SALVADOR

August 2026

Dear praying friends,

These are very exciting times to be serving our Lord here in El Salvador. God keeps showing us that nothing done for His glory is a waste. We are also very excited about how He is working in the lives of our children.

Some of you know that before being a missionary in El Salvador, I was a scientist. In 1996, God allowed me to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California at Berkeley. However, I decided to lay aside my dream of going to medical school to follow the Lord to the mission field in El Salvador. We know that true science is always dependent on the Word of God. I had initially thought that I had left science behind, more than two decades ago, as I started serving in the mission field. It turned out that God would have me running experiments with my mind.

Over the past 28 years God has led me to memorize the entire New Testament and Proverbs. This is very close to 9,000 verses. It took me 18 years to memorize these verses and the last ten years to maintain them. I have spent over 25,000 hours on this project. By devoting my mind to God's Word, He has led me to a great discovery. The method I used to memorize and maintain Scripture has rewired my brain! I can review all these verses sequentially every 10 days, meditate on them without much stress, and in less time than you might think.

In 2003, I was at a low intermediate level in French, and I dropped it completely. In fact, I did not think about it for 21 years. In 2024, I picked French up again. My brain had been so rewired by then, that I was still at a low intermediate level in French and eight months after picking it up again, I was able to preach in French! This method that God has given me is much more than just rote memorization. The great news is that the method can rewire anyone's brain to learn and retain so much more. I have been able to scale it down so that most anyone, in just 30 minutes per day, can memorize and meditate 150-250 verses per year. In fact, it is a method that can be used to learn a great many other things, though it works best for Scripture. I am writing a book about my journey and how to implement this method. If the Lord permits, the book should be finished in November. Please pray that God would be greatly glorified by it.

We are so thankful with how God has been working in our children's lives. Rosa is about to begin her last year at Liberty University. God has allowed her to get an education with a negligible amount of debt. Our two boys started their new school year this week. Caleb is a senior now. Please pray for him as he is about to take the SAT and is planning on attending Pensacola Christian College next year. Thank you so much for your faithful prayers and support.

Yours in Christ,
Steve Cerna

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