



December 2018

Dearest Friends and Supporters,

I write this letter filled with gratitude for your prayers and financial support of my ministry in Costa Rica. It's hard to believe that 2018 is almost over, but it has been a year filled with blessings.

I am also grateful to our great God who brings things about in His timing. Just as Christ was born into this world at a specific time in history to be salvation in the world, God also works in our lives as well as through us to bring about His will IN HIS TIME.

I am thinking of the Pastoral Care for Women classes. This spring I contacted several churches and followed up with them repeatedly, but the timing wasn't right. Finally, in August I was able to teach a course in an immigrant neighborhood. It was after the violence had begun in Nicaragua and several of my students were refugees fleeing that situation.

Ula, one of the students, passed through a crisis while taking the class. Her husband returned to Nicaragua, taking one of their four children with him without telling her. We encouraged her to wait and to care for her three children here. Through the course she discovered many things about herself, including that God valued her and gave her inner strength, that she was capable of making her own decisions (such as staying in Costa Rica), and that she had options. I believe that being in the course during this crisis was God's timing.

A long-time friend from Nicaragua who now serves in Costa Rica connected me to a ministry with refugees. Thus we began working on Ula's legal status in Costa Rica and have made great progress in a short amount of time.

Ula is now earning money for her family selling food she makes from her home. Her husband now regrets leaving the country and wants to return, although she made it clear that the family will be staying in Costa Rica. Ula is trusting that in God's timing, her husband and son will return.

The end of the year is rushing up and filled with so many ministry opportunities that I can't believe it. Yet I rejoice in God's timing!

God has used you to impact Ula's life. I pray that God will continue to work through you as you make yourselves available in His timing (even if it is something new—I'm no expert on immigration paperwork!). Let us open our hearts again in this season as Jesus comes once again offering new life to those who will receive it.

With thankfulness,

*Sue Hegarty*