

July 2024



# THE MACKENSENS

Serving with GMI

## *Dear friends and family,*

Greetings from Panama! We have already been back in Panama for six months. Wow, so much has happened! From the Panama church, Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia (CBG), receiving a short-term mission team from a GMI-affiliated church from Costa Rica to CBG being able to start a teenage youth group, to the Panama field receiving new missionaries! Let's get you caught up!

One of the goals for this year was to plan and launch a youth group specifically for teenagers in our church and community. We praise God that this ministry was launched early this year. This group meets every Saturday from 5 to 6:30 pm and the group's name is "δοῦλος" (Doulos) which is the Greek word for servant. Our goal as a group is to learn more and more to abide in Christ so that we may serve Him. The core group includes four faithful teenagers who have been part of the church since it began almost 4 years ago. The youth group continues to grow, with up to fifteen teens attending the group each week. Since the teenage years are when many beliefs are being shaped in a person, we pray that the teens here in Panama who are part of our church and community can be shaped by the truth of God's Word.

In April, a team from Iglesia Bíblica de la Gracia, a Costa Rican church affiliated with GMI visited Panama to help renovate and paint the church. They also helped with our summer kids' ministry, Equipados, an outdoor ministry in a local park, and evangelism in the streets of David. As Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia has grown, it has become difficult to fit everyone who participates in our ministries into the building where we meet. By renovating the church we were able to more efficiently



RONNIE TEACHING YOUTH GROUP STUDENTS



OUR SATURDAY YOUTH GROUP



JAQUE TEACHING YOUTH GROUP STUDENTS

utilize the space we have to better accommodate our members. We were and are very thankful for our brothers and sisters in Christ from Costa Rica and their willingness to leave their country to help the Body of Christ grow here in Panama.

Finally as mentioned in our last prayer letter, we received a new missionary to the field in December, Cecy Torres. She has been a blessing to us and we are thankful for her life and her heart to love and serve the Lord. Additionally, this past June we received two more missionaries, Anthony and Pamela Beaulieu. With this addition, the GMI Panama team has grown to seven missionaries. Our prayer is that God will use the team here in Panama for His glory and that the Body of Christ in Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia will continue growing and maturing in Christ.

The Panama team's goal is to establish a solid mid-Acts dispensational church in the city of David. We want to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with the lost while also training up Panamanian nationals within our church with sound Biblical doctrine. We are praying that God continues maturing and developing a healthy church with active members who know and rightly divide His Word (II Tim. 2:15).



CECY (LEFT) AND ANTHONY AND PAMELA (RIGHT)



PANAMA CHURCH RENNOVATION

## Praises

- We praise the Lord that we were able to start a youth group and that God has been bringing teenagers to our new youth group to hear His truth
- We praise the Lord for the new missionaries who have joined the Panama team
- We give thanks for His Grace and love and His guiding hand in our lives
- We give thanks and praise to God for our son Noah who is turning two years old on July 17

## Prayers

- Please pray for us and the GMI team in Panama as we incorporate new members into the team and adjust responsibilities among team members. Pray for us as we take on new roles and responsibilities and pray that God will guide us in accomplishing His will. Also, pray for healthy team dynamics in our expanded team.
- Pray for the development of the national leaders in our church and the growth of Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia.
- Please pray for our endurance and that we will always trust the Lord in every aspect of our lives.

Blessings,

*Ronnie, Jaque, and Noah  
Mackensen*

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SCAN  
to stay  
in touch

