

Sharing God's Grace with the World



Ronnie, Jaque & Noah Mackendsen

Serving through GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY 2023

Dear friends and family

Blessings from Panama! We pray that you had a blessed holiday season with friends, family and church family.



Noah's first Christmas!

Family

These past six months have flown by and the last time we wrote to you, we left you with the amazing news that we had added a Panamanian to our family, Noah Mackensen—diversifying and growing our cross-cultural family! Noah is very healthy and has been doing super well, he will be six months old on January 17. He likes to roll around and we are preparing for when we have to chase him around the house when he learns to crawl! We thank you for praying for Noah and us as we've learned to become parents.

Ministry

Our last letter, we updated you on the progress of our ministry. We had just begun having services at our new church building. Now we have been meeting there for almost a full year! This year our church, Comunidad Biblica de la Gracia, just celebrated our first Christmas in our church building. We celebrated a wonderful Christmas service, having a special Christmas program celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. We sang many Christmas worship songs. Many participated in the Christmas program, having helped with the worship team and reenacting the history of how God provided a way of redemption through His son, Jesus Christ. About 25 people attended and heard the gospel message.



Ronnie preaching on Christmas, "Who Needs Christmas"



First Christmas at our new church building!

Ronnie's martial art ministry, Academia Arraigados, finished the year with a belt test. Four students were promoted to the next rank having demonstrated the physical skills along with the Biblical knowledge to be promoted to the next level and take the next step in their training. Ronnie's goal is to start another class adding additional students to Academia Arraigados. God willing, the students will one day use their skills and knowledge as a tool to bring glory to Him.

Ronnie's next step of his plan is to begin working specifically with senior students in leadership training. They will learn not only new skills and knowledge but also how to lead, teach and pass on their skills and Biblical knowledge to others.

Our church has been deepening its understanding of sound church doctrine in our Wednesday night Bible studies. Both Ronnie and Alvaro have rotated in leading each Bible study as we have taken a look at the various doctrinal topics. Knowing that God desires "that we speak and teach what is proper for sound doctrine," we pray that as a church we may know sound teachings and are rooted in the Faith and that we are confident and able to share our beliefs with others. We plan to continue studying these and many other topics in the year to come.

As we press on, we pray that God guides us in our service as we continue to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and as the Body of Christ continues to grow. We pray as we enter this year Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia continues to grow spiritually and in rightly handling the Word of God. The Panama team prays that more Panamanians and others join us in the ministry and help us in our service to the Lord and growth of the Church.

Blessings,

Ronnie, Jaque & Noah Mackensen

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Kids participating in Christmas program



Kids Club Celebrating 2nd year at Trampoline Park



Sunday School Service Invitations

PRAISES

- We praise the Lord for Noah. That he is healthy and is developing well.
- We praise the Lord for another year in Panama. May He bless us with many more.
- We give thanks and praise for all the visits our family had this year. God blessed us with the help of our parents, especially when Noah was born.

PRAYER

- *PRAY FOR* our current ministries along with the new and additional ministries we plan to have this year.
- Endurance. We have been blessed to serve in the field for almost four years. However, with the many travel restrictions over the past few years we have not gotten to visit the United States at all. We are praying that we may be able to visit the US soon.
- Pray for us as new parents that we may raise Noah to be a godly young man someday and that he may be obedient to the Lord and know Christ as his personal Savior.
- Please pray that God raises up leaders in the church.
- Please pray for more missionaries.

