

# THE BARRANTES

SERVING WITH GMI

APRIL 2024



*Hello dear brothers and sisters in the Lord!*

We are so thankful for this channel of communication which allows us to update our partners in ministry on what God is doing in our ministry in Panama. Every morning our family begins the day together by talking about why we are here in Panama and who we are serving. The answer always ends up being to serve our great and wonderful God, for His glory alone.

We continue working in this church planting ministry, where the Lord is developing and growing the local church for His glory. Attendance is growing and the people are becoming more consistently engaged in the ministry here. Over time we are beginning to feel like a family.



Our Church Congregation

A good example is the Arauz family who travels almost two hours every Sunday to attend Comunidad Bíblica de La Gracia (Grace Bible Community). In addition to attending regularly, several family members also serve on the Worship Team. They say Comunidad Bíblica de La Gracia does not look like any other church they had previously attended. They report that they experience grace, love, and brotherhood here; things they didn't know, understand, or experience before coming to our church. We want the grace and love of Jesus Christ to be our identity as a church family and thus

fulfill the law of Christ as Galatians 5:14 states.



Worship Team

The focus of each of our ministries is to show the grace of Jesus by going deeper with our biblical teaching. The Wednesday Bible studies and men's and women's groups on the weekends are valuable opportunities to build relationships as well as terrific channels for teaching biblical truth and sound doctrine to our church members.

Alvaro is leading the men's group at the church where we seek to remind and teach the men about Biblical masculinity, living their lives in Christ, and the role they have in leading their families, children, and the church based on the Biblical model found in Ephesians chapter five.



Men's Ministry

At the same time, Mauren is investing her time in the women to develop and strengthen their understanding of their identity in Christ and God's plan for their lives. Some of the women who participate in this group have not attended the church yet, but are greatly benefiting from this study as they are in great need of finding their identity and value in Christ Jesus. One of them is Katherine Quiroz who has been our friend for more than four years. Over the past four years, we have been investing our time and resources in her and her family to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with them. The process has been slow and it has not been easy, but despite all of the barriers and difficulties, we have seen God at work and they are beginning to see the wonders of God's promises for the Body of Christ.



Camp Day with Church Members

Please join us in praying that the church here in Panama continues to walk and grow in the Lord's will. Pray also that our Grace Ministries International Panama team will work together, using the gifts God has given each of us, to accomplish His purposes as we serve the local church.

We have several ministry projects on the GMI website that we encourage you to support if you are able. One of the projects is raising funds to upgrade our vehicle to one that is more reliable and can carry more people. A larger, more reliable vehicle will allow us to provide transportation for more of the children and adults who do not have a way to get to church. You can find this project by going to [gracem.org](http://gracem.org) and search for Barrantes Vehicle under the Projects tab.

Thank you for being part of our ministry! Your prayers and support help us stay focused on the ministry God has entrusted to us in Panama (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

If you would like to stay in touch with us, please follow us on social media!

**Facebook:**



Comunidad Biblica  
de la Gracia David  
AND  
Pura Vida en Panama

**Instagram:**



@iglesiabgdavid



Big hug from David, Panama,

*The Barrantes Family*



Mauren with the Women

For Good Friday we planned a picnic and a camp day with church members and some other guests. We traveled to a beautiful place two hours away from the city of David where there are rivers and hot springs. During our time there, we had a time of praise and a short teaching from the Bible on what Passover means to us the Body of Christ. We are so grateful that Eduardo and Verónica Córdoba (a young adult couple from the church) took the leadership in organizing this event. It was a wonderful chance to have fun, build trust, and celebrate communion with our brothers and sisters from the church. As Psalms 133:1 says, "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity."



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