



*Dear family and friends,*

I thank God that in Christ all things are possible! It has been almost a year since God brought me to Panama, and He is faithful. It has been a year of many changes and transitions, and at times I thought I would not make it. **I thank God that He is the one who always sustains me.**

Due to some changes in our team, we have had to re-evaluate how we do ministry in Panama. After serving with Grace Ministries International (GMI) in Panama for four years, our co-workers Ronnie and Jaque Mackensen decided to step down as missionaries with Grace Ministries International (GMI) to pursue other avenues of ministry. With fewer GMI team members serving here, we are focusing on the basics of laying a sound spiritual foundation and helping the people in the church grow deeper in their faith. While church attendance has been a little lower over the past several months, we are thankful for those who are committed to the church and growing in Christ, who is our rock! **I have learned a lot during these past few months and I am keeping my focus on Jesus, trusting that He is in control as I simply continue to walk by faith.**



When I arrived in Panama, Ronnie and Jaque Mackensen had already been serving here for nearly three years and I thank God for their friendship and encouragement as I acclimated to a new ministry. With their departure from the field, the GMI team in Panama now consists of Anthony and Pamela Beaulieu, who were new to the field in July 2024, and myself.

Since we are all relatively new to the ministry in Panama, we expressed the desire to have ministry leaders with more experience come alongside us in our ministry. We are so thankful that the Lord answered our prayers and prompted ministry leaders from Comunidad Biblica de la Gracia (Grace Bible Community), a GMI-affiliated church in Belén, Costa Rica, and Comunidad Biblica de la Gracia in Mérida, Mexico to assist and support us in the ministry here in David, Panama.

As I already mentioned, the Beaulieus arrived in July, and have been a welcome addition to the team. **Over the past five months, we have enjoyed working, praying, and dreaming together to build a strong, healthy church rooted in Christ.** I have also had the privilege of sharing a weekly Bible study with Pamela and Jaque. Meeting together each week has strengthened our relationship and has also provided an opportunity to encourage one another and keep our eyes set on things above. I have loved these times.



#### **Young Adult Group.**

We continue to invest in relationships in the church and I thank God that the young adults group continues to meet every Friday. The group includes up to twenty young adults who regularly participate in our meetings. While many of them do not regularly attend the Sunday worship service due to scheduling conflicts with work and other activities, they consistently participate

in our Friday Bible studies where they can relate with other young people and make friends who encourage them to focus on Christ during the week. In addition to our Friday meetings, Pamela and I have been intentional in investing more in the young women at the church. We try to get together in small groups or one-on-one as often as we can to play games, go shopping, or simply go out for a coffee. These get-togethers have been very nice and have provided opportunities for the girls to get to know us and for us to know them better.



**Young Adult Bible Study**

**Discipleship.**

I thank God for the opportunity to meet regularly with Alejandro and Julia for discipleship. We meet every two weeks and are continuing with our study of the life of Christ. Despite their busy schedules, I am thankful for the time they set aside to invest in their spiritual lives. I also have the privilege of sharing one-on-one with a woman named Rosa who is around fifty years old. Rosa came to know Jesus when she was a child and attended church for many years. Even though she attended a Christian church for years, she did not have anyone teach her more deeply about the Bible and who Christ is. She is very interested in knowing Jesus more intimately and at the same time wants to teach other women. I am excited to see Rosa waiting to meet with me every Wednesday. She prioritizes the time we spend together and comes ready to learn. I am very happy to invest this time in Rosa.



**Evangelism.**

I thank the Lord for the opportunity to share the gospel with one hundred twenty-seven middle school and high school students in September. At this event, Ronnie presented the gospel through martial arts and Anthony shared his testimony. It was a great time to make Christ known. We are hoping to have more opportunities in the future to share the gospel in schools. Similar to the US, middle and high school students in Panama are being bombarded with lies and worldly temptations and need to hear that Jesus Christ is "the way, the truth, and the life."

**Connections with other churches/organizations.**

I am also grateful to God for the opportunities He has given us to make connections with other organizations, such as CEC (Community of Christian Students), and PDV (Word of Life). We have had the opportunity to have PDV groups join us on two occasions, helping with evangelism outreaches through soccer games. We also had the opportunity to attend the 20th Anniversary celebration of the CEC. It was an emotional time as we praised and thanked God for his faithfulness to our brothers and sisters in this organization.



**Word of Life Soccer Event**

**Future Plans.**

As a team, we continue to pray and ask God to provide more missionaries to join the GMI team in Panama. We are also praying that God continues to move in the hearts of the people here and that they will desire to know Jesus more deeply. We are praying that God continues to give us the creativity, strength, love, and passion we need to continue serving our Panamanian brothers and sisters. We desire that Christ will continue using our gifts and talents to reach and bless others.

Please pray for us as we connect with more and more people each week and are being very intentional in building relationships with them. Jesus set an example in connecting with people in their daily lives and we desire to follow in his footsteps. Please pray with us that our church will continue to grow in both attendance and spiritual maturity. I am excited and looking forward to the brothers and sisters the Lord will be adding to our church in the coming months.

Thank you for investing in the ministry here in Panama through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. We are in this together. We would love to have you come visit us in Panama and be an encouragement to our team. I am very thankful that through your support the Lord has provided me with a car. Thank you so much! Having a car is a big help to my ministry as I can get around the city more easily and I will also be able to bless others by providing transportation to church and other activities.

*Cecy Torres*

**EMAIL:** [cecy@gracem.org](mailto:cecy@gracem.org)

**INSTAGRAM:** [cecytorres\\_isback/Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/cecytorres_isback/)

**FACEBOOK:** Cecilia Torres/Facebook

**WHATSAPP NUMBER:** +507 6471-2609



GRACE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL