



Dear partners in ministry,

Almost two years have passed since God invited me to join His mission in Panama, and sometimes I still can't believe I get to be part of what He is doing here. Church planting through disciple-making has not been a straight line — it's been slow, relational, and often stretching — but it has also been one of the greatest joys of my life. My desire has never been to just fill a building with people. I want to nurture a community of people who truly walk with Jesus in their everyday lives; who learn to share their faith naturally and help others do the same.

More and more, God is teaching me that this work is not about programs or structures, but about **people—real people whose hearts He is transforming little by little.** And in these past months, I've seen His hand at work in ways that have humbled me, challenged me, and reminded me why I said yes to this calling in the first place.

Personal and Spiritual Growth - These months have been a tender season between God and my heart. I've felt Him gently uncovering areas of pride I didn't even realize were shaping my decisions—moments where I wanted control, or where I cared too much about outcomes or people's expectations. Instead of condemning me, He has patiently called me back to dependence, purity of heart, and attentiveness to His voice.

It has been humbling, but also freeing. I'm learning again and again that the strength of this ministry does not come from me—it comes from Him. And when I slow down and listen, He meets me with grace.

Spiritual Formation - In November, I had the beautiful privilege of attending the **MET** (Ministry Enhancement Team) **Retreat** sponsored by Grace Ministries International. I was eagerly looking forward to the retreat, and I wasn't disappointed. God used the retreat to breathe fresh life into my soul. He reaffirmed my calling to Panama, reminded me that He is the One sustaining this work, and deepened my relationships with teammates who are my new family.

I came home with renewed strength—my heart lighter, my vision clearer, and my hope refreshed. It was a gift from the Lord at just the right time.

Ministry Work and Outreach - These past months have been filled with small but meaningful moments where I've seen God open doors and draw people closer.

- **Our first Father's Day celebration** was a sweet opportunity to honor dads and remind them how deeply God values their role.



Women's 1st in person meeting



Young adults gathering



MET-2025



Father's Day Celebration

- **Hosting Cristian Pérez and Carla Escalante**, from our partner church in Mérida, Mexico, was a blessing I didn't know I needed. Each of them spent three months with us, bringing encouragement, fresh ideas, and such genuine companionship.
- **Community and outreach activities**—youth soccer, a gathering for professionals, refreshing the church space, launching our first in-person women's group, hosting visitors from Mexico, Paraguay, and Costa Rica, starting a weekly game night, and simple things like karaoke and frisbee in the park—have all been small seeds of relationship and trust. Some of these efforts have shown immediate fruit; others are still in God's hands. But each moment has been an expression of Christ's love shared in ordinary, everyday ways.

God's Work in the Church - One of the greatest joys these past several months has been watching God bring new people into our spiritual family, including a man from Venezuela, a couple with their two children, and another woman with two children. Every one of them is a reminder that God is the One building this church, drawing people to Himself in His perfect time.

Challenges - Being a new and growing church comes with its own set of challenges—some expected, some surprising. **Learning to work together as a team** has stretched us, but in really beautiful ways. We are still growing in communication, maturity, and unity. And even in the hard moments, I've seen God shaping our character, teaching us humility, patience, and how to serve one another with grace.

Financial limitations continue to be a reality. With our small number of members, covering rent and utilities is something we are still trusting God for each month. It's not easy, but it has kept us close to Him, praying and believing that He will provide—and He has, again and again. These challenges have not discouraged us; they have strengthened our faith and reminded us that this is God's church, not ours.

Plans and expectations for the next six months - With God's guidance, our desire is to:

- Strengthen ministries already growing—women's group, young adults, teens, and our Sunday gatherings.
- Deepen Biblical training for potential leaders such as Alejandro and Julia, and Nicolás and Rosa.
- Develop new ways to connect with the community, including substitute teaching, joining a local running team, and visiting nearby churches to build relationships.

Looking back on the past six months, I can only say that God has been faithful—so faithful. He has transformed lives, encouraged weary hearts, and guided every step of the way. I am deeply thankful to Him, and also to each person who prays, supports, and walks with me in this calling. I'm especially grateful to my leaders for their care, encouragement, and guidance.

In Christ,

Cecy Torres

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Hosting Cristian and Carla



Hosting family from Mexico, Paraguay and Costa Rica



Profesionales gathering at my house



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