



## LUIS AND MARCIA COTO

MAY 2026

*Dear brothers, sisters, and co-laborers in Christ,*

We send you warm greetings and our deep gratitude to God for your lives and your faithful support. For those who may be new to us, we are Luis and Marcia Coto from Costa Rica. We have been married for thirty-one years and have one daughter, Valentina, who was recently married. We have served the Lord for twenty-nine years, during which we planted two churches in our country, with the focus of being and making disciples of Jesus (1 Peter 2:21; 2 Timothy 2:2).

We have spent the past eleven years serving the Lord in Mexico, first training and equipping leaders in the City of Querétaro, and later in the city of Mérida, in the Yucatán, where we are planting the first GMI-affiliated church in the country. Regardless of our location, our calling remains the same: to make disciples wherever God sends us.

When we arrived in Mérida four years ago, we spent time learning the local culture and then opened our home, building relationships through which we could share the gospel. What started as a small group in our home grew into Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia (Grace Bible Community) of Mérida—a testimony of God's faithfulness.

### **A SPECIAL TIME AS A FAMILY:**

In December, we traveled to Canada to visit our daughter Valentina and son-in-law Cole for a couple of weeks. It was a very special time in which we were able to celebrate Christmas together, strengthen our family bonds, and thank God for this new season in their lives.

During that time, we also sought the Lord's guidance as we made ministry plans for 2026. We selected "Family" as our central theme for the year, with strategies contextualized to the local culture. We thank God that the church has grown from approximately 60 to 90 people over the past year, and we are seeing a genuine interest among families, youth, and children to know Jesus more.

At the beginning of this year, we moved to a new area of the city, praying that God would use us to reach new families with the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **OUR GROWING TEAM IN MERIDA:**

We thank God for the Craesmeyer family, who arrived last summer and have integrated beautifully into the ministry here, especially with the young adults. We also welcomed Marta Cordero, who joined the GMI team in Mérida in February. She settled in quickly and is already serving the Lord, working with women and older adults. Please pray for both Marta and the Craesmeyers as they adapt to the culture and work through the immigration process to obtain long-term residency in Mexico.

### **NEW OPPORTUNITIES:**

With growth comes new challenges and opportunities. We are currently focusing



LUIS & MARCIA



OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN MERIDA



THE GMI MEXICO TEAM



on developing additional ministry leaders and workers. Recently, we started a Bible study group in the town of Cholul (about 10 minutes from our new home), a Saturday men’s group at the church, and we continue meeting in homes for Bible study and fellowship, all key spaces for relational discipleship.

Luis continues to train faithful men who are already actively serving in ministry, including Cristian Pérez, José Juan Juárez, Mario Escalante, and Pablo Escalante. Marcia continues discipling and training women, seeing fruit in new leaders such as Carla Escalante, Alondra Ramos, Lilia Solís, Alejandra Solís, Mary, and Jimena Escalante.

**A REASON FOR JOY AND A NEW CHALLENGE:**

On April 26th, we celebrated the third anniversary of our church, Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia, with much praise and gratitude to the Lord. Our theme was “Thus far the Lord has helped us.” Even as we are celebrating God’s faithfulness, we are facing a “good problem” at Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia. We are running out of space and are praying about the possibility of starting a second service on Sunday mornings.

**PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYING:**

- For wisdom and direction as our ministries grow
- For the development of new ministry leaders
- For Cristian Pérez, who began serving part-time as a pastor in the church
- About a possible second service
- For the growth of home groups
- For the strengthening of our ministries
- For our GMI missionary team
- That new families will be reached and transformed through Jesus Christ



**LUIS AND MARCIA WITH JIMENA AND PABLO, AND CRISTIAN AND CARLA**

**CURRENT NEEDS:**

- More workers in our ministries
- Resources for training and equipping leaders and workers
- Adequate physical space for our church to meet
- Additional financial support
- Family strength and balance

We deeply appreciate your prayers, love, and constant support. You are part of what God is doing in Mérida. We continue trusting that He who began a good work will be faithful to complete it. It is a privilege to serve together so that Christ may be known and exalted.

With love and gratitude in Christ,

*Luis and Marcia Coto*



**OUR NEW FRIDAY NIGHT GROUP**

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