



**Luis and Marcia Coto**

**October 2023**

## *Greetings from Mexico to all our brothers and sisters in Christ!*

It is a privilege for us to reach out to you and share the latest news about the grace and glory of God here in Merida, Mexico. We invite you to join us in celebrating all the beautiful things that God is doing here in the Yucatán Peninsula.

"For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2 Corinthians 4:6.

The light of the glory of Christ is what drives us to carry the beautiful message of God's grace to the people of Mexico and it is what encourages us to continue doing missionary work. As we have previously shared, the purpose of our ministry in Mexico is to plant a church that teaches and preaches the good news of salvation by grace through faith alone. We rejoice to report that through the work of God and with the partnership of each of you who lovingly bless us with your prayers and financial support the church plant is already reaching our community in Merida! Thank you for being part of this ministry. Seeing what God is doing in this place through all of you is wonderful.

## *Ministry Update*

In these last five months, God brought seventeen families together who have decided to make Grace Bible Community their church home. This rapid growth far exceeded our expectations and we rejoice in the spiritual impact that has been made in the lives of the people God led to our young church. As our church grew, we saw the need to develop a strategy to help these new families grow spiritually and make Jesus Christ the center of their lives. Our strategy for encouraging spiritual growth involves personal discipleship as we meet one-on-one with people and also meet together corporately for Sunday worship. It also includes youth meetings, women's gatherings each Saturday, doctrinal classes on Fridays, and a marriage course two Saturdays per month.

Our greatest desire is to see Christ formed in these believers and to see the people of Grace Bible Community transformed in their character and priorities. It has been a real challenge to keep all of these ministries going, but we are passionate about seeing new people surrender their lives to Jesus. We recently witnessed an eternal event take place during the women's Bible study. On September 23rd, a woman named Margarita was moved to recognize her need for salvation and confess her sins. In the midst of her tears, we heard her say "I need Jesus Christ, please help me". The following Sunday, she returned to church with her three daughters (Angie, 16, Addy, 15, and Alison, 14) God is good! Please pray for them.



**Margarita at Bible Study**

**Bible Study Group**



**Church Family**



# Discipleship and Growth

We have strategically selected ten people to train and equip for ministry with the goal of developing reliable co-workers to help with the work of the ministry here. Through prayer, observation, and interaction we identified couples and individuals who evidenced a desire to grow closer to Jesus and a willingness to align their priorities with becoming disciples who make disciples. These are people we discipled for some time before starting the church and they have shown a strong desire to support and be part of the ministry here. Back on September 24th, we had breakfast with them and we were able to listen to their hearts. We ask that you pray for them and we look forward to providing you with an update in our next letter.



**Discipleship  
Group**

We thank God for the phenomenal growth we have experienced as a church and we know that with growth other challenges often arise. For example, we rented a home that we anticipated would provide the space necessary to accommodate our church meetings for the next two years. However, by the grace of God, we have already reached our maximum capacity and have outgrown this space. The rapid growth has also resulted in the need for more Bibles, as well as more tables, chairs, and equipment for children's Sunday School and youth ministry. We praise God for the people he has brought to Grace Bible Community and invite you to join us in prayer as we trust God to provide for our needs.

As a family, it is always a joy to see Jesus at work. On September 15th we hosted an event to celebrate the anniversary of Mexico's Independence. Eighty people attended this event and it was such a blessing to stand shoulder to shoulder as a family serving the Lord together. Praise be to God for this priceless experience! God is always good!



**Independence  
Day!**

We have an opportunity to visit the United States for six weeks in October and November at the invitation of one of our supporting churches in New Jersey. Following our time in New Jersey, we will visit the Grace Ministries International (GMI) headquarters in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and will have the opportunity to visit several churches in the Midwest prior to returning to Mexico in November. While our time in the United States is brief, we are thankful to the churches that have opened their doors and provided us with an opportunity to share what the Lord is doing in Mexico. We are both excited and a little anxious about our trip to the US. Please pray for us as we travel and visit churches. It will be a real pleasure to meet some of you who have faithfully supported our ministry in Merida and thank you in person. For those we are unable to meet during this trip, we hope we have another opportunity to meet you soon.

## Prayer Requests

- God to raise up a generation of passionate disciples for Jesus.
- For a disciple multiplication movement in Merida, Mexico.
- For a larger space to meet that will accommodate the needs of our growing congregation as we disciple a new generation of believers.
- Funds to purchase the furniture and equipment necessary for effective ministry.
- Our visit to the United States during the months of October and November as we share with churches and invite them to partner with us in what God is doing in Mexico.

With all our love,  
Your servants for the cause of Christ,

*Luis and Marcia Coto*

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