


# GMAW

GRACE MINISTRIES AROUND THE WORLD

MAY - JUNE 2023



Keeping you  
praying for  
and informed  
about 



**Bolivia** is the new home of GMI team member Marta Cordero who arrived there early on April 4 to serve with her new GMI coworkers, Talo and Patty Vergara. Talo and Patty have worked hard these past few years serving alone. The Bible school (Centro Bíblico de la Gracia), one of their many ministry responsibilities, continues to grow and train church leaders under Talo's direction. They are excited to welcome Marta who can help take some of the organizational and administrative burdens off of them while she also invests in the people of Bolivia through Bible teaching and discipleship. The plan is for Marta to serve alongside Talo and Patty for at least a year before she moves on to a new ministry opportunity. Marta served well in Nicaragua and helped to develop new ministries there. It is a blessing she can now serve in Bolivia!

**In Mbeya, Tanzania**, at the beginning of March, GMI team members John Caprari and Jack serving in Malawi along with GMI Board Chairman, Jim Moore, attended the gradu-



Graduation in Mbeya

ation of 13 cross-cultural workers (CCWs) from a six-month training course designed to prepare them to reach unreached people groups in Africa. These 13 students from three different countries (Tanzania, Malawi and Zambia) learned about cross-cultural adaptation, theology, reaching Muslims with the gospel, small business development and management, and leadership skills. Some of the people groups this class of students is targeting are those on the Islands of Pemba and Unguja, the Yao of Malawi and the Wandengereko of Tanzania. Pray for them as they put into practice the skills they have learned through the program John, Jack and others have designed. This program is part of GMI's commitment to reach 20 unreached people groups with the gospel by sending 60 CCWs by the year 2033.



Devastation in Malawi

**Malawi** was hit by Cyclone Freddy on March 12 leaving a path of destruction. The storm produced winds of more than 95 mph and several inches of rain. GMI team member, Brook Seekins, shared, "Many are saying this is the worst disaster in Malawi they have ever seen, and the President has declared a national emergency." Several of the churches and church members affiliated with GMI have been impacted by this storm. To learn more and to give towards the relief effort

visit [gracem.org](http://gracem.org), click on the "Projects" link and select "Malawi Disaster Relief." Pray as the GMI team and the representatives of the Grace Churches in Malawi continue to survey and assess the damage and needs.

**In David, Panama**, thirty people came out on Easter to celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ at Comunidad Bíblica de la Gracia (Grace Bible Community). The GMI team of the Barrantes and Mackensens were encouraged with this big gathering that pushed their meeting space to the limits. GMI team member Ronnie shared a reflection about the risen Lord and the congregation ate a meal together.



Cecy Torres

### New GMI Team Member! Cecilia (Cecy)

**Torres**, originally from Mexico, came to know the Lord at the age of seven while living in an orphanage run as a Christian ministry. Later, she lived and studied in India for three years before returning to Mexico where she began working at the same orphanage where she grew up, Pan de Vida. She served as a teacher, caregiver, Sunday school teacher, and youth leader for eleven years. In 2016, Cecy met current GMI team members Luis and Marcia Coto. As they discipled Cecy, they also introduced her to the GMI-affiliated Bible school, Instituto Bíblico de la Gracia, where she studied theology and ministry

which Cecy shares, "has helped me learn more about this loving God, who has done it all, and that my salvation doesn't depend on anything I can do, but in everything He has already done. Right now I'm so excited to go out there and continue sharing about God's love, grace and mercy to many people who are lost and in need to hear, know and believe in the Savior who wants to rescue them and give them abundant life." In 2017, Cecy attended a three-month cross-cultural training program in Costa Rica run by International Teams. As a result of this training she explains, "I learned so much about my dependency on the Holy Spirit and not on my own strength or deeds, since that is exhausting and impossible." To learn more about Cecy and support her ministry in Panama, visit [gracem.org](http://gracem.org), click on "GMI Global Team" and select "Cecy Torres."



Church plant in Mexico

**Church planting** is a key aspect of GMI's global ministry. In Mexico, GMI team members Luis and Marcia Coto are transitioning into a new, more centralized location where they will continue to meet with their growing group of 20 people with the goal of planting a church in the city of Mérida. GMI team member Cleiton Menor is excited to share that the church plant in the city of Franco, Paraguay, "is entering a new phase where locals are stepping up to the plate," while, "The Bible study group in Foz (Brazil) continues to faithfully meet on Sunday nights."



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