

Ronnie has been a GMI-affiliated short-term missionary with the taekwondo team *BreakThrough* for nearly three years. He has been one of the assets within *BreakThrough* which has used this unique medium to bring awareness of the grace of God to the churches in Costa Rica, Puerto Rico, and Paraguay. He has also used martial arts as an evangelism tool to build relationships and to give *Break-Though* and the local missionaries the opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Jaque is from Brazil. When she made her decision to become a Christian, she had amazing friends who challenged her to study the Bible and to do ministry. Some years later she understood the importance of missions and made her decision to pursue becoming a missionary instead of being a teacher which was her field of study.

When Jaque came to the U.S. to do an internship at Frontline Bible Church in Byron Center, MI, she met Ronnie and they realized they each had the same goals for the future. Their friendship quickly turned to love and they married on September 10, 2018, in a beautiful beach wedding north of Grand Haven, MI, with both sets of parents in attendance. After a very short honeymoon they started their travels to Minneapolis and then to the Pacific Northwest to share their hearts and future ministries with the people there.



THE MACKENSEN MEMO

RONNIE AND JAQUE MACKENSEN • DECEMBER 2018 • CHIRIQUI, PANAMA



As new missionaries, Ronnie and Jaque are excited to serve God under Grace Ministries International (GMI). The plan is to go to Nicaragua for language training during the summer of 2019. Then they will head to Panama to start a new field along with another couple, the Barrantes. They will evangelize, plant churches, and encourage and train men and women so they may continue the work in Panama. In the meantime, they are taking classes at the Berean Bible Institute (BBI) in Springer, WI, to better prepare for their life in Panama.

RECENT UPDATE...

This past year has been a very exciting year for us! God has been opening so many doors. First, both of us were accepted in June as the newest Grace Ministries International missionaries. Later, in September we had our beautiful beach wedding in Grand Haven, Michigan. Shortly after the wedding, we began our missionary careers traveling to the Pacific Northwest to visit churches and share the ministry we will have in Panama.

This November we traveled to Brazil to visit our family where we were able to have another wedding ceremony in front of Jaque's family and friends. Our time spent with family and friends was an amazing time of rest and fellowship. We also shared about our experience in the Pacific

PANAMA



Northwest where we talked about our preparation for starting the new field in Panama. We were also able to encourage the church in Brazil to “step up and out” as they do ministry and as they support national and international missions. God has been amazingly involved in our lives as we prepare to serve in Panama!

In Brazil, we also had the opportunity to visit a new church which Jaque helped plant last year with her brother (Pastor Tiago Neiverth) and her teacher (Pastor Luis Brizola) at the seminary she attended. They planted this church in 2017 and it was very good to see how much the work has grown since last year which we saw through visits to people’s homes and services we attended. The church community is very poor and God has opened doors through social ministries in the neighborhood such as a cooking class, craft class, guitar class, surf class, and Bible study. The pastors are now planning to build a church building for this community, starting this month (December 2018). Pray with us for this new work, the leaders, and those new members of the Body!

Now we will spend some time in Port Huron, Michigan, with the Mackensen family. Ronnie will work



Our wedding in Brazil with both sets of parents in attendance

with his father at UPS making some holiday money. This time that we have to spend with family means a lot to both of us. Although this is a time of rest for us, it also is a time to prepare to travel to the southern, eastern and midwest states in the U.S. to share about our ministry.

In January we will be visiting more churches to talk about our desire to serve. Our passion is to serve in Panama with our missionary teammates, Alvaro and Mauren Barrantes, to plant churches and disciple

local leaders. Alvaro and Mauren have excellent experience as ministry leaders in Costa Rica serving with GMI missionary, Chuck Befus, at the church he helped to plant. With their ministry experience and our youth and energy, we hope to bring people to know the truth about God’s will through gifts and skills God has given to us.

As you pray for us, we ask that you pray for our travels during this winter season—we are traveling to mission conferences to raise support and the winter roads can be unpredictable. Pray that our financial support is raised in the next couple of months as we plan to leave for language school on May 18, 2019. Praise God we are currently at 32%. We also ask that you pray for our team meeting as we talk about strategies for the field.



A Bible study at the church in Brazil



Missionaries who were visiting the Pacific Northwest churches during their missions conferences

Ronnie and Jaqueline Mackensen