



Hello! My name is Cecilia Torres.

I was born on the thirteenth of April in the beautiful country of Mexico. My five siblings and I had a difficult childhood and my parents were unable to provide the care we needed. When I was seven years old we were sent to an orphanage in central Mexico where we grew up. I thank God the home was run as a Christian ministry and I came to know the Lord while growing up there.

Although it was not God's design for me and my siblings to grow up in an orphanage, God used the orphanage to provide for our needs and keep us from further harm. Above all, He used our time at the orphanage as an opportunity for us to get to know Him. I didn't have a very easy adolescence (which is probably true of most teenagers), but I tried to live a life that pleased God, even though my perception of God was limited.

FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE, I WANTED TO BE A MISSIONARY, EVEN THOUGH AT THE TIME I DIDN'T FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANT. When I was nineteen years old I had the opportunity to go to India as a missionary for three years. It was an experience that taught me to depend on God completely, knowing that I am His, and He is with me wherever I go. That was my first cross-cultural experience and during my time in India, I was also able to finish a degree in social work.

WHEN I RETURNED FROM INDIA, GOD PUT IT ON MY HEART TO GO BACK AND SERVE IN THE ORPHANAGE WHERE I HAD GROWN UP. I served in this home for eleven years, from 2010 - 2021. During this time God gave me the opportunity to disciple women and youth through serving as a teacher, youth leader, Sunday school teacher, and the leader of a women's house. Throughout these years God continued to prepare me for the next step. Serving in the orphanage made me so happy as I witnessed the transformation that took place in the children when they gave their lives to Christ. It was the most wonderful thing one can experience.

IN 2016, I MET SOME MISSIONARIES FROM COSTA RICA, AND WE BEGAN TO WALK TOGETHER IN DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH THE WORD OF GOD. In 2017, I was encouraged to go deeper with God, and I went to Costa Rica to spend three intensive months learning about the life of Jesus and other subjects in cross-cultural missions. During that time I completely surrendered before God saying, "I will not leave this place until I am transformed by you." I had a precious encounter with God, learning that just as Jesus did nothing on his own, in the same way, I can do nothing on my own; apart from Him, I can do nothing.

IN AUGUST 2021, I FELT IN MY HEART IT WAS TIME TO LEAVE THE ORPHANAGE AND TAKE A SABBATICAL WHILE PRAYING AND LISTENING TO DISCERN GOD'S NEXT STEPS FOR ME. During this time away from the orphanage I thought it would be good



AGE 7

Me and my siblings a couple of months after we arrived at the orphanage.



2010

With my classmates of Social Work in India in 2010



2017

Students & instructors when I studied in Costa Rica in 2017.



2017

With my 3rd & 4th grade students



2018

With my 6th grade students in 2018

2023



Scan to stay in touch

AREAS OF MINISTRY:

Teaching, Discipleship, Evangelism, Education

EMAIL:

cecy@gracem.org

INSTAGRAM:

cecytorres_isback/Instagram

FACEBOOK:

Cecilia Torres/Facebook

WHATSAPP NUMBER:

+52 442 127 5235

to continue discipling others, but felt the Lord calling me to do so in another country. At that same time, I was introduced to Grace Ministries International (GMI), a missionary-sending ministry based in Grand Rapids Michigan, through my Costa Rican friends Luis and Marcia Coto. In preparation for future ministry, I began taking courses that are taught online by Costa Rica Grace Bible Institute which is affiliated with Grace Ministries International.

While waiting for the application process with GMI to be completed, I continued to make disciples in a community that is forty-five minutes from the city. Once a week my two friends and I would get together to study the Word of God with six families from the La Versolilla community.

I THANK THE LORD THAT IN MARCH I RECEIVED THE EXCITING NEWS THAT GMI HAD ACCEPTED ME AS A MISSIONARY TO PANAMA.

My desire in going to Panama is to join **Álvaro and Mauren Barrantes** and **Ronnie and Jaque Mackensen** in the church planting ministry in the city of David. Just as I have in the past, I would like to use the gifts God has given me to continue in a disciple-making ministry with the women, youth, and children of the community. I also desire to use my gift of teaching to provide remedial help and tutoring to children and youth in the community that have fallen behind in their studies. And I also have a heart for reaching university students through one-to-one discipleship.

I am excited to see how God is going to use me in Panama! As 2 Corinthians 6:18-19 says,

"All this is from God, (speaking about salvation) who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."

I feel privileged to have received the gift of salvation and to now take that message of reconciliation to others for the glory of His Name.

THROUGH THE YEARS I HAVE LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF HAVING PEOPLE WALK WITH ME AS I PURSUE THE MISSION GOD HAS GIVEN TO ME.

I think back to my time in India and ask myself, "How did I do it?" I know that it was not me, but Christ in me, who provided the strength and ability for me to serve there. While I did not have a large group of people who supported me in that ministry, I am so thankful to God for the director of the orphanage who accompanied me and supported me throughout that experience. Through that experience, I have come to value the prayers and support of faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who will partner with me in ministry. If God is moving in your heart, I invite you to partner with me as I join the GMI team in Panama.

I encourage you to be a part of what God is doing in my life and in the lives of the women, youth, and children I will minister to in Panama. Your prayers, encouragement, and financial support will be vital to my work in Panama; I cannot do this without you!

In Christ,

Cecy Torres

Sharing
God's Grace
with the **WORLD**



GRACE MINISTRIES
INTERNATIONAL