

**Dave and Blanca Gifford
In Mexico City with**



Vision:

1. The lives and ministries of the Resonate Mexico missionaries will be enriched and facilitated by Dave's supervision.
2. Presbyterian and other churches will have leaders equipped with training and resources through Dave's classes and web materials.
3. Unchurched families will come to Christ through Blanca's evangelistic childrens' ministry.
4. Local churches and campus ministries will be enhanced by our activities in preaching, teaching, and hospitality.

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Tweets from Mexico City, Feb 2018

Greetings from Mexico City! We have been back just over a month now, and we want to update you on all things Gifford. There are so many things to share, I will use the 'tweet' format – short bursts of information - that I have used in the past.

During our last weeks in Michigan, we got locked out of our house, our furnace stopped working, my cell phone died, the animal hospital messed up our dog Muffin's papers, and the tracphones I bought for the trip did not work. We wondered what our trip would be like!

But God answered the prayers of many people, because our six-day road trip from Michigan to Mexico City (with a deputation stop in Houston) went smooth as silk. Weather was good, Muffin traveled well, and customs at the border was a breeze!

It was hard leaving our daughter Alexandra to finish high school in the US and prepare for college. But we were happy to see our son Daniel after leaving him in Mexico while on home service. Please remember to pray for our kids.

My two New Testament courses are going well. I have seven students in NT 2 (a combination of the first and third year students) and five students in NT 3 (the second year students). And yesterday I

opened a new series of sermons that lay pastor Hernán and I will preach on the parables of Jesus.

Blanca jumped back into her Saturday kids club and her involvement with the ladies society of our church. She and Hernán are also organizing a ministry to the unchurched young people who have outgrown the kids club. Our house will be full of young people a week from Saturday! Please pray for this new outreach.

Praise the Lord for Maritza. She is the mother of two of the kids from the club. She has been coming to church on Wednesdays and Fridays. She is growing by leaps and bounds and has been asking lots of good questions at Bible studies. And now she and her son Luis are asking to attend the profession of faith class. Pray for Maritza and Luis.

My colleague Pablo Canché and I went to the US embassy on February 16 to comfort the family of Fred Thielke. Fred was 30, worked at the embassy, and died in a mountain-climbing accident. Fred's parents are retired volunteers with our mission in the Philippines. It was an honor to be there for the Thielkes, represent the mission, participate in the service briefly, and hear the moving testimonies about this wonderful young man.

Blanca and I are grateful for health. Blanca has recovered from two weeks

or more of a cough and cold she picked up on the trip down. I am still struggling with seasonal allergies leave me tired and make me lose a lot of sleep, but I should only have a week or so more before it ends. Light at the end of the tunnel!

The Lord has given us moments of grace, rest, and joy, too: we enjoyed eating out for Daniel's birthday and for Valentine's Day, we attended a conference for couples at our church, and yesterday the church had a cake ready to celebrate my upcoming 52nd birthday.

Our support is 20% closer to target than the last couple years. We are grateful to the Lord and to you, our supporters, for getting us back on track!

Coming attractions: Lord willing, I will send out our next prayer letter a little early, a month from now, and it will be chock full of photos: kids club and youth, my students, the Mexico retreat, and more.

Thank you all again for your prayers, financial support, word-of-mouth, and encouragement!

– Dave and Blanca, Daniel and Alexandra