

Septembruary 2023

Dear supporters, friends, family members, greetings from Mexico City!

Networking and benevolence

In our last letter I wrote about my networking with churches and pastors here in Mexico City. That continues at full pace, and I never cease to be amazed at the surprises:

- At one church, the pastor's wife launched into a 20 minute musical preachy prayer in the middle of the service. That is, as one worship song ended, she kept singing, and the song became a sung 'stream of consciousness' prayer, and the sung prayer became an indirect sermon to the people present.
- At another church, a cat entered and walked down the middle aisle during the sermon.

You may remember the \$8,000 in benevolence funds which you our supporters generously donated in 2022 for needy families. We were able to use some of those funds to help Chucho (Jesús), whom we have mentioned in previous prayer letters.

Chucho is a member of our church who has needed a liver transplant for a couple of years now. He has been vomiting blood, and dealing with other symptoms. A gift of USD \$667 helped cover a month of the medications he was put on. Jesús and his wife Lizbeth expressed their gratitude to the donors who gave for this fund.

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

Resonate
GLOBAL MISSION

Email: dgifford@crcna.org

Website <https://giffmex.org>



Chucho (Jesús)

We give thanks to God for interested candidates for the missional network position. But we still need prayer: the mission has encountered some technical hurdles for international hires, and since some applicants are not from the US, we are on hold with regard to serious interviewing until that can get resolved.

Children's ministry

The kids club has not come together yet, but Blanca has been heavily involved with the kids and youth of our church. She helps teach Sunday School for the little ones, took the youth on an excursion to a big park - the boats on the lake



The young people of our church at camp

were a big hit - and she drove the youth to a presbytery-wide youth camp in the state of Morelos. We have had a number of new people come to our church, and that has given Blanca a few new children to display Jesus' love to also.

Summer opportunities

I have been invited to preach, give conferences and lead studies this summer, in the state of Tabasco, the state of Morelos, Mexico state, our home church in Mexico City, and even online. Topics were all over the map: the use of Scripture in prayer, the relationship of eschatology and social change, the millennium, biblical formation, honor and shame in the context of the cross, and the question of Why get involved in projects to change the world?



Dave's conference on changing the world, in Villahermosa

I got time for my Spanish online materials this summer, too. I put out an introduction to 1 and 2 Samuel, an article on Mark 16, a description of 12 themes in 1 Peter, and other smaller projects.

Family matters

Please pray for Daniel's health. He has been dealing with various symptoms, and medications have just added more symptoms to accompany them. We are grateful he is doing somewhat better, and recent tests came back negative.

Alexandra's job at the veterinarian is going well. Thank you for your prayers.

Blanca and I celebrated our 32nd anniversary on August 17. We celebrated with a trip to the city of Oaxaca.



In June we surpassed our support goal for the last fiscal year, and are well on our way with this year's support. Thank you all!

We have enjoyed moderate (70-75 degrees) temperature in Mexico City this summer while our friends in the States have been in a heat wave. And we will still enjoy moderate temperatures here when winter hits the US. To be fair, though, in late May / early June, we had a heat wave and got to 88 degrees at one point, with only a portable A/C and some fans to combat it. 88 was an all time record for Mexico City.

Thank you all for your prayers, financial support, and words of encouragement. God bless you all in Christ Jesus!

Dave, Blanca, Daniel and Alexandra Gifford