

# The Wokaty Family

Missionaries to Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico/TEAM Mobile Seminary

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**JUNE-JULY 2018**

When we wrote our last prayer letter, we communicated our furlough plans as we began packing up our belongings while finishing out the school year at Ebenezer Bible College and Seminary (IPES). As we write this letter, we find ourselves thousands of miles away from Hermosillo, visiting churches to share about the past (our 17 years in Hermosillo), present (our furlough ministry), and future (our ministry throughout Latin America with TEAM Mobile Seminary, a ministry under MGMI to help national pastors get more theological training and start Bible institutes to train their countrymen). We are just as excited about talking of what the Lord has been doing in Hermosillo as we are talking about the upcoming opportunities to help pastors and leaders throughout Latin America further prepare themselves and start local training facilities.

**Goodbyes.** As we began to leave Hermosillo to begin our furlough, we experienced several bittersweet goodbyes. One of those goodbyes was spent at the kids' club at Piedra Bola, where we ministered on the weekends. Another was with IPES, when at the graduation banquet we were given a plaque made of ironwood commemorating our seventeen years at Hermosillo. One other was a cookout with the pastors in the area. A final goodbye was with Emanuel Baptist Church, the day before we left Hermosillo. Although the goodbyes were difficult, they gave us a time to reflect on the Lord's faithfulness. That reflection directed our thoughts to continued ministry that the Lord has for us during this year of furlough and then with the Great Commission church planting lying ahead through equipping Latin American pastors with the tools for them to train their countrymen.

**Hellos.** Our leaving Hermosillo for furlough allows us to share with others what the Lord has been doing in Mexico. We left Hermosillo with a van and a small trailer and drove over 2,000 miles to South Carolina. Just a few short days after arriving into South Carolina, we reported and presented TEAM Mobile Seminary at Faith Baptist Church in Taylors, SC. During that week in South Carolina, our youngest daughter attended Vacation Bible School at Iglesia Bautista de la Fe, our sending church. During the same week, Anna attended a summer orientation at BJU to prepare her for being a college freshman this coming semester.

After a week in South Carolina, we traveled another 1,000 miles to Wisconsin. For two weeks Dan was the "missionary of the week" at Camp Chetek, where Randy Tanis, Opal's former youth pastor, is the director. Our time at the camp allowed Dan to give an illustrated challenge a couple of times each week to the campers at the lakeside, and our family shared aspects of the ministry in Mexico each evening during the evening chapel time before the evangelists preached. These weeks allowed us to interact with many campers who were sensitive to the Lord's working in their lives regarding the mission field and allowed each of our kids to be a camper for a week. It was an additional blessing to see our nephew Paul Zimmer, the son of Opal's brother Paul, working diligently at the camp for the summer.

**Prayer request.** Please pray for us as we continue to travel on furlough. In the month of June, we had meetings in South Carolina and Wisconsin. For July, we have meetings in Michigan, Wisconsin, and then in South Carolina as we head back south after meetings from our first northern trek and the Zimmer Family Reunion.

**SO... WHAT DOES ONE DO ON FURLOUGH?** Among many other opportunities, furlough provides missionaries the opportunities to share what the Lord has been doing on the field where the missionary has been serving. We also enjoy the divine appointments that the Lord gives us to evangelize, disciple, and counsel. Although our last “traditional” one-year furlough was in 2005, already we are experiencing how furlough offers each missionary unique and distinct areas of service and activity. Below is a sampling of some of what has and will be our furlough experience. Hopefully this list will inform you how to pray for your missionaries.

**1. Traveling!** We traveled over 3,000 miles within our first two weeks of furlough. This is a foretaste of what we will see ahead. We thank the Lord that our van, which currently has over 230,000 miles, continues to get us from one place to another.

**2. Coordinating meetings.** Before leaving for furlough, we maintained a full schedule of teaching and ministry as we worked to turn over responsibilities. We also worked on downsizing and packing up our belongings as we got ready to turn over to our landlords the house that we have been renting for twelve years. The constraints of time on the field have made it necessary to take part of our furlough to continue setting up meetings during the furlough year. Let us know if you would like us to visit your church!

**3. Serving as seminary dean.** Dan will continue to serve as seminary dean until the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IPES on May 24, 2019, when he will turn over this position officially to Wesley Barley, who is currently on deputation to go to Hermosillo. Dan will be able to maintain his responsibilities online, which involves ongoing development of the seminary programs as well as working with prospective and current students from several countries.

**4. Planning trips to Latin America with TEAM Mobile Seminary.** Since the TEAM trips will begin a year from now, we need to begin coordinating trips during our furlough.

**5. Assisting MGMI.** Apart from being a missionary under MGMI, another “hat” that Dan wears is MGMI’s Coordinator of Extended Theological Education. Since TEAM Mobile Seminary and IPES are ministries under MGMI, responsibilities in this area overlap well. One other “hat” that Dan wears is his position as MGMI’s Assistant Director. The administrative responsibilities under this position are ones that can be handled from any place on the planet (if it has a good Internet connection!).

**Praise.** There is growing interest in TEAM Mobile Seminary. There are specific areas to visit, pastors in the US who are interested in traveling with us, and the donation of initial travel funds for Dan.

**Current level of promised support: 79%**

**Note:** If you are receiving our newsletters by “snail mail” and would prefer to receive them by email, please send us a quick note at [dwokaty@mgmi.org](mailto:dwokaty@mgmi.org) to let us know.

Thank you for your prayers!

Dan, Opal, Anna, Abby, Daniel and Damaris Wokaty  
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