



**MGM International**  
Multiplying Leaders for the Great Hispanic Harvest



## News from The Shumates

### Shumate Family Update: September 2019

#### At a Glance

##### ***Updates and Praises***

- Blessed ministry trip to Costa Rica with the Wokatys
- New school year begins at IPES (Hermosillo) and at IBCS (Arizona)
- Ministry advancement at the *Iglesia Evangélica Bautista*

##### ***Prayer Requests***

- For continuing grace and comfort for Dr. Dick Mercado
- Discipleship opportunities
- Wisdom about ministry priorities in the great press of opportunities
- Safety on the road as Joanna drives to IBCS each day

##### ***Upcoming***

- Mary's wedding to Dustin Kleeberger on October 12 (change of date)
- David teaching a block class at BJU in October
- MGMI Staff Conference in Greenville, SC, in March

#### **Costa Rica**

In late July we had the privilege and blessing of traveling to Costa Rica with Dan and Opal Wokaty to teach two conferences at the Iglesia Bautista Calle Blancos in San Jose. This church also runs a Bible institute. Ivan and Lizzy Villalobos (nee Cochran) were our hosts and were also heavily involved in organizing the conferences. Dan and David taught one conference on Expository Preaching and teaching that was well received by the institute students and local pastors. Then all six of us spoke in a conference on the family. It was a delight to meet new friends and colleagues in the ministry, as well as to form deeper connections with Ivan and Lizzy. Please pray for this young couple, that their biblical counseling ministry would yield spiritual fruit and that they would have wisdom.

In addition to the conferences we took some time to do some sightseeing in this beautiful country. It was interesting for us to see coffee plantations and banana trees and to hear the howler monkeys waking up the jungle in the quiet of the early morning. We also enjoyed eating the local specialties, and we drank a lot of delicious Costa Rican coffee. It was the rainy season, but during our days there we were blessed with beautiful weather. We hope to return to continue encouraging the believers there as they are taking leadership of the process of training the next generation of pastors and leaders for the ministry.

## Family News

School has begun again, which means that Joanna is back in classes and David is busy teaching at IBCS in Chandler, Arizona. Our son Stephen is continuing his seminary work there as well but is also teaching three graduate classes—beginning Greek and two theology classes. Please pray for both of them as they are serving the Lord by helping others understand the Word better.

The big event on the horizon is Mary's wedding on October 12 to Dustin Kleeberger. The date was moved up one month to make it possible for one of Dustin's sisters to attend before her baby is born. Like Mary, Dustin also is the fifth child of six in his family, and his father is a missionary pastor, ministering in Gallup, New Mexico, with an outreach to the Navajo people. We are busy planning, making the decorations, and preparing for a wedding that will involve the pastors and the people from three churches here in the Valley.

### *Iglesia Evangélica Bautista*

One of the great blessings of our ministry at MGMI is our relationship with the "Mother Church" in Phoenix. This church is the Hispanic ministry planted by Dr. Mercado's father and that has partnered with MGMI for many decades. Pastor Steve Rubio and Pastor Luís Torres are providing great leadership, and the church is considered a leader among fundamental Hispanic churches in the United States. It is our privilege to be a part of this ministry and to interact regularly with the leadership, mutually encouraging and supporting each other.

The pastors and sizeable contingent of members attended the ARCH Ministries conference held in Buckeye, Arizona, recently, a conference that David had previously attended in Mentor, Ohio, at Grace Church of Mentor. We are pleased to have a part in the development of a "disciple-making culture" at the church. In addition, David has been privileged to help develop administrative leadership among the members of the church, helping to organize a church security committee that helps the ministry to better look out for the flock. Please pray for the Spirit's leading as our leadership seeks to develop our church into one that is truly following the pattern of making and maturing lifelong disciples of Christ.



**Wearing hard hats because we are on the rim of an active volcano.**



**At a coffee plantation in Naranjo, Costa Rica**