



MGM International
Multiplying Leaders for the Great Hispanic Harvest



News from Gail Ereddia

August 2019

Dear Friends,

Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints (Psalm 116:15). But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him (I Thess. 4:13-14). Wherefore comfort one another with these words (I Thess. 4:18).

Those familiar words are so comforting to those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as their Savior when friends and loved ones go home to be with the Lord for all eternity.

In June the Lord saw fit to take home Margine Mercado, wife of former MGMI general director, Dr. Richard Mercado. When I relocated to Phoenix to work in the home office in January of 1987, my parents had just passed away the previous May (Dad) and August (Mom), so it was a comfort to me to have the Mercados care for me as I got settled into a new aspect of ministry. Mrs. Mercado supervised the office for many years; and, at that time, our work included the Mission, the bilingual church, and the Christian school. It was a busy place with several secretaries, and those were the early days of desktop computers. It's amazing to me how much technology has changed since then. My first day on the job there were a couple of cassette tapes with over 100 letters on them to be transcribed (on an electronic typewriter)!

More than learning about office work, I learned from Mrs. Mercado's example: she was a gracious, godly woman who was faithful in all she did. Her example inspired me to endure when I wasn't feeling well, as I know that she dealt with terrible pain for a long time but never complained! We were "book buddies," in that we shared a love of reading, and often we would exchange books. She introduced me to some new authors which I still enjoy today. Our Januaries in those early years were endurance events! We would set up a couple of folding tables and work many, many long hours trying to make sure everything for the year was balanced. Thankfully, improved software has made things much easier. I still remember how Dr. Mercado and she came to my surgeries in the hospital and prayed over me. There was always a gift on my desk for my birthday, and for "Secretaries Day," we were always treated royally! To this day, I still have to remind myself that it's okay to not do things the way Mrs. Mercado wanted us to do them, as long as there's a better way now, what with software changes, etc.! I'm truly grateful to know that someday we'll meet again...for all eternity...without pain and sorrow but with joy in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Another of God's servants went home to be with the Lord on August 3—Bro. Dan McCandless who spent many years serving the Lord on an Indian reservation here in Arizona. I first met Dan and his wife Sharon at my sending church (Faith Baptist, Taylors, SC) in the 1970's. I was working at GFA Missions, and Dan and Sharon started coming to Faith and were in charge of the choir and special music and the College and Career Group. Dan was also on staff there for the two years that I worked at the church. They were very influential in my life in getting me to participate in special music. I was always insecure about my singing abilities, but they encouraged me to actually sing solos. I believe my very first solo at Faith (in the old Hammett Street building with about 40 people or so in the congregation at the time) had me standing behind the very small podium, which meant that you could see my knees shaking! After the service my friend's mother, dear "Mom Franke," came up to me laughing as she told me she could see my knees shaking up there! It still amazes me that I continued to sing in the choir and participate in special music. Unfortunately, after my back injury several years

ago I pretty much lost my singing voice for some reason, I'm sorry to say, but I'm grateful that I can at least enjoy congregational singing now. The funeral service was in Tucson, Arizona, and Pastor Dick Mercado and his wife Joyce allowed me to ride with them so that I could be there. I was amazed to see/hear Dr. Ed Nelson preach the service at 96 years old! It was a tremendous blessing.

Thank you for your continued prayers for Westpointe Baptist Church regarding our building situation. The church building that we looked into purchasing was bought by someone else, so we continue to wait on the Lord for His timing and direction. The good news is that on Sunday we had five adults join the church, so the Lord is still working, in spite of not being able to build just yet, which is much more important than a building!

On a personal note, thank you for your continued prayers for my physical health. Each day is a challenge and a reminder that I need to depend on the Lord for His grace each day. And, even more than my physical health, please pray that the Lord will strengthen me spiritually and use me for His glory!

Many thanks to those of you who pray and support both me and the ministry of MGM International.

In Christ,

Gail Ereddia