



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



## News from The Shumates

### Shumate Family Update: January, 2021

#### At a Glance

##### *Updates and Praises*

- Successful completion of the school year at IBCS
- Immigration approval for Gregorio Murillo to serve as missionary pastor of a Hispanic church in Brooklyn, New York
- Daughter and son-in-law moved to Northeastern Arizona to work at a Christian camp and support a Bible-preaching church
- Joanna recovered from COVID—Linda and I both tested negative.

##### *Prayer Requests*

- New school semester teaching at International Baptist College and Seminary
- David teaching three additional online courses in Spanish this spring and early summer
- Wisdom and safety for visiting the missionaries this year
- That the Venezuelan missionary will be able to return to his country so that we can begin the tract printing and distribution project
- For continued provision for MGMI missionaries and the home office

### Thanks to God for His Abundant Mercies

It was about a year ago that we first started hearing reports of a new SARS-like virus that had cropped up in China. We certainly would have not guessed then that the year 2020 would have developed the way it has, but it is a reminder that our times are in God's hands and that He has no need that anyone should be His counselor. We have needed a constant reminder that God knows what He is doing.

By God's grace, the MGMI team has made it through 2020 and continues serving the Lord, although many plans had to be altered. This month Jacinto Aguilar, our missionary in Columbia, South Carolina, lost his mother due to COVID-19. Praise the Lord, she had a solid Christian testimony and is with the Lord Jesus. This fall the Wokaty family, based in Greenville, SC, had its experience with the illness, but all have recovered. The same with our pastor in Phoenix, Steve Rubio, and his family. The week before Christmas, our daughter Joanna, who is still living with us, started feeling poorly, then tested positive for COVID-19. It was a mild case (mostly fatigue), and she feels much better. Linda and I continue to feel well, and we have both tested negative. We thank the Lord for His mercies.

Although we kept to ourselves for Thanksgiving and Christmas, we did have some Zoom get-togethers and were able to see the kids and grandkids open their presents. We are expecting grandchild #7 in just a few weeks.

Despite the changes brought about by the pandemic, we have continued to see God's blessing and have been able to continue ministering. By God's grace David completed another semester teaching at International Baptist College. Linda took a graduate class in the exposition of the Old Testament historical books, and Joanna completed her fall semester of classes as well. One of the unanticipated blessings of working with IBCS has been that it gave us a three-year head start with Zoom and other distance-education technologies. This allowed us to help our church use the platform more effectively, both in streaming services and in developing discipleship groups.

Another unexpected ministry opportunity that came our way, in part due to COVID-19, has been the addition of a new MGMI team member, Gregorio Murillo. The Murillos are from Guadalajara, Mexico, and for over 20 years they served as missionaries to the country of Colombia. While on furlough for medical treatment for their daughter, they volunteered to help with a Hispanic church in Brooklyn, New York. That church is 90 years old, and their longtime pastor went Home to be with the Lord. The Murillos were such a blessing that the church asked if we could help Bro. Gregorio obtain a religious worker's visa to become their new pastor.

We have written before about our experience with this kind of ministry. In fact, our first such visa holder, Marco Zapien, eventually obtained a religious worker's permanent resident card (green card) to minister in Fort Collins, Colorado. This past June he graduated from the status of missionary pastor with MGMI to serving as full-time Hispanic Pastor at the church there. We also continue to hear good things about the ministry of Roberto Diaz, another MGMI missionary pastor serving in North Georgia.

As you might imagine, the permission process for a religious worker's visa is complicated, but with the help of an able immigration attorney, we were able to submit the application for Brother Murillo a few weeks ago. We just heard a few days ago that our application has been approved, and he can begin serving in Brooklyn as an MGMI missionary in January. Praise the Lord!

The increasing use of Zoom all over the world has also opened other doors for teaching. Please pray for David. In addition to teaching two classes this spring at IBCS in the Phoenix area, he has been asked to teach Hebrew Grammar to a group of teachers in Mexico via distance learning. He will also be teaching a class on prayer to students in Uruguay via Zoom. Finally, in June he is scheduled to teach in person a one-week module of Systematic Theology in the post-graduate program at the Ebenezer Bible College and Seminary in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Please pray for both of us as we are scheduled to visit our missionaries on the field this year, as the Lord wills. We have two trips scheduled for April, one to minister with the Zapiens in Fort Collins, Colorado, and one to visit our missionary families (the Tap and Denise Hornor and Brian and Diana Hornor families) in the state of Sinaloa, Mexico.

Thank you all for your wonderful encouragement, prayers, and support throughout 2020. May the Lord abundantly bless and use you in the coming year.

Dave and Linda Shumate