



MGM International
Multiplying Leaders for the Great Hispanic Harvest



News from Gail Ereddia

December 2023

Dear Friends,

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name **JESUS**: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21*

Trying to find Christmas cards this year, I was amazed at how difficult it was to find ones that actually mentioned the name of Jesus...whose birth we are celebrating! Society might want to remove Him completely from our minds, but Jesus tells us: **...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me** (John 14:6). The best gift you could receive this Christmas would be to receive Him as your Savior from your sins and be given the gift of eternal life in Heaven!

November, in particular, was a super busy month full of church (lots of baking—for wedding of my pastor's daughter and our annual cake auction, a fun way for people to contribute to our youth department) and mission activities. The Evangelical Baptist Church and MGMI celebrate the same anniversary—this year we celebrated 93 years of the Lord's faithfulness! Son of the founder, Dr. Richard L. Mercado, former pastor of the church and director of MGMI, went home to be with the Lord this year at 93. The anniversary meetings this year honored his faithful life and ministry. MGMI missionary Ron Cochran, director of the Ebenezer Bible College and Seminary in Mexico and pastor of Emanuel Baptist Church, was the conference speaker. Ron and his wife Jackie were able to stay at the "missionary motel" (my home) while their daughter and son-in-law, Lizzy and Ivan Villalobos, were in California for deputation meetings (they stayed here as a home base for two months while having meetings). Thursday, Friday, and Sunday, Dr. Mercado was honored as an evangelist, missionary, and a pastor. I had the privilege of sharing a brief testimony on Sunday about him as my pastor and mission director for many years. After the service, there was a special dinner for all the church family, and Dr. Mercado's son Richard spoke. In the lobby, a wonderful display was set up showcasing his life. As I looked at all the pictures, video, and items on display, I laughed when I saw that someone had found my old dictaphone, which I used to transcribe letters for Dr. Mercado! When I mentioned it to the young man who was in charge of the display, he told me that he had to look online to figure out what it was! How to make me feel old! 😊 My first day at the Phoenix office in January of 1987 there were a couple of cassette tapes on my desk with over 100 letters that he had dictated that needed to be typed...on a typewriter! What a privilege it was to serve the Lord with him and his dear wife Margine.

So much has changed since then, and I'm sure there will be many more changes to come. Please continue to pray for health needs for our team, especially Bro. Bacilio Alfaro. Thank you for praying for the Villalobos and Brian Hornor families. They have returned to Mexico after their deputation meetings for a couple of months. Praise the Lord for support that has been raised, and please continue to pray that the Lord will meet their every need. We pray that for each of our team as well.

Our next big event, which we started planning for months ago, will be our annual staff conference (my favorite event!) in March which will be held in Greenville, SC, next year at my sending church, Faith Baptist in Taylors. It was decided that conference will be for those on the East Coast, and in 2025, the meetings will be in Hermosillo, Mexico for those on the West Coast.

Special thanks to those of you who pray and give so that I can continue to serve the Lord as long as He gives me health and strength. May the Lord richly bless each of you, and may you have a wonderful Christmastime celebrating our Lord's birth!

Gail Ereddia