



MGM International
Multiplying Leaders for the Great Hispanic Harvest



News from Ivan and Lizzy Villalobos

August-September 2021

Dear Friends,

It has been almost a month since we arrived in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico, and we were greeted by lots of rain, delicious food, and warm welcomes from our brothers and sisters in Christ at Emanuel Baptist Church and Ebenezer Bible College and Seminary.

The Lord has provided a comfortable rental home for us that is spacious and mostly furnished, with A/C that works great, for which we are especially thankful in this desert heat! The owner is a local pastor who has been very kind to us. We want to thank deeply Pastor Jack Lesa and his church in Chicago for providing a brand-new washing machine for us, the one thing that was lacking in this house. It has been a big blessing! Thank you again!

We are also thankful for the car that He provided for us in Virginia this summer. It has given us no trouble at all; and, even though we had a bit of a delay in Phoenix trying to get AZ license plates, we finally received them. How thankful we are to the many brethren who were so generous to us when they heard about our accident in July and our need of another car, including Pastor J.P. Mays, Pastor Rick Setser, the church members there, and our loving friends, the Shinns.

We definitely hit the ground running on our arrival in Hermosillo. Not a week after we arrived, faculty and staff meetings began at the seminary, and classes started about a week after that. The academic dean was gracious and assigned us just a few classes to teach this semester, in order to give us more time to get acclimated to life here in Mexico. I am teaching Church History and Fundamentals of Counseling, and Lizzy is teaching Music Theory and piano lessons. Next semester, Lord willing, we will be teaching more counseling classes.

We are excited about upcoming ministry opportunities in the church. We were placed in the music ministry right away—Lizzy is playing the piano every Sunday morning, and I am directing the music about once a week or so. We also have been given the opportunity to begin a young adults' program at the church, and we began by creating an online survey for them to fill out, to try to get to know them and their needs a little better. We were also invited to support the teen ministry every weekend, and we are excited to be able to lend a hand. The church here has a strong evangelistic ministry every Saturday. In addition to three neighborhoods being reached through door-to-door evangelism, they are also currently in the process of planting three churches in small towns nearby. We are visiting and praying about which of the six locations to get involved in.

We are also thankful to our friends from Selah International Counseling Ministries, who have provided us with a way to begin the process of getting certified as ACBC biblical counselors. We have just begun the program and are looking forward to increasing our knowledge of the Scriptures, so that we will be better prepared and able to train others more effectively. Our plan is to strengthen the counseling courses here at the Bible college and seminary, as well as to teach workshops where we will touch on topics such as abuse, depression, anxiety, etc. Also, we would like to teach and train the local church in biblical counseling, something we will be planning in the upcoming months. Finally, a long-term goal is to make the Bible college and seminary a place where Latin-American Christians can be trained and get certified in biblical counseling.

We are so thankful to each and every one of you for coming alongside us, helping us with prayer, a comfortable place to stay, a warm meal, and/or a loving donation. It helped us reach our destination for sure, and we pray the Lord will bless you in return!

We appreciate your prayers for the following:

- Staying focused on what God has called us to do, amid the busyness of ministry here
- Lizzy's health—the change of diet has affected her stomach a bit.
- The different ministries we are already involved in—dependance on the Lord and not on ourselves, to perform His work in the lives of those to whom we are ministering
- That God may be glorified in the lives of the students through the teaching of the Word.
- Financial provision

In Christ,

Ivan and Lizzy Villalobos Cochran

