



MGM International
Multiplying Leaders for the Great Hispanic Harvest



News from Ron and Jackie Cochran

January-March 2023

Dear Friends,

Throughout the years, God has used different people at different times to guide and lead us through different stages of our lives. When we joined Mexican Gospel Mission in 1985, Dr. Dick Mercado was our mission board director; and, during the time he was at the helm, he helped to steer us through several disheartening times by his testimony of graciousness and deep love for God and others. Our next director, Dr. Dave Shumate, came at a time when we needed his legal expertise to tread unknown waters in dealing with a situation in one of our mission churches. With that same expertise he has also helped us establish needed guidelines in various areas of the ministry. This March, our fellow missionary, Dr. Dan Wokaty, has officially taken the reins of the mission board, as Dr. Shumate has moved to the position of dean of the seminary of International Baptist College. We thank God for the leadership of each director He has placed in our mission board and look forward to the Lord's continuing guidance through the leadership He provides.

We began this year at Ebenezer Bible Institute and Seminary with a postgrad class on working with youth, given by Jim Gardner, director of the camp Meta in the state of Michoacan. This was one of the best-attended classes we have had in several years. The following week our students arrived for the spring semester, and we began second-semester classes with 50 full-time and 11 part-time students. Please pray for our students as they continue their preparation both in class and in practical, hands-on training in local churches where they serve.

This year has been colder than usual here in Sonora, and we have had a high number of people dealing with colds and other health issues. One issue Jackie has also been dealing with is work on her teeth, and we are so thankful for our excellent Christian dentist, Xochitl, who has done a great job. This year has also been a year for not just people but technological gadgets to need a helping hand. Jackie had to deal with two computer crashes in February and March, but we are thankful for His servant and our coworker, Alejandra, who got her computer up and running again as well as recuperating most of her files.

This spring is a time for meetings and conferences, beginning with a preaching opportunity at a sister church for their missions conference. The following week Bro. Chris Phillips of Selah International Counseling Ministries came and gave several excellent sessions on anxiety and depression to the parents of our Christian school students and other church members. The next week we spent several days in Phoenix for our annual MGMI meetings—a time of great blessing and spiritual refreshment. Coming up in April we have family camp April 6-8 and then our annual Bible conference the following week. We are looking forward to great times of preaching and fellowship during both weeks and ask for your prayers for God's blessing and lasting fruit.

Another helping hand came through an expert on Religious Associations, Bro. Jesús Salazar, from San Luis Potosí. He was able to come to Hermosillo and give several suggestions on how to update and improve our association as well as provide much useful information to area pastors about setting up their own religious associations.

Coming up May 26 is our graduation. Please pray for those who are finishing up this semester, as they work on their classes and their doctrinal thesis. At the end of June, we plan to head up to Greenville for the birth of grandbaby #7 and in July will be visiting churches out West. Also taking place in July is a Costa Rican missions trip, headed up by Ivan and Lizzy (Cochran) Villalobos with a group of 16 students and staff. Please pray for the Lord to greatly use this group and for traveling mercies for all our students and staff who will be traveling during the next few months.

Some of you have been praying for the Luna family, and we would like to give you an update. Isaac discovered a tumor on his upper left arm; and, because of the state of medical care in Ghana, he opted to return to Mexico with his family to run the tests and do the necessary procedures. The tumor is benign, but because of its position, the pain it is causing, and the possibility of becoming malignant, Isaac is now awaiting an operation for its removal. Please pray for God's timing as to the date of the operation and the Luna family's return to Africa.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. May God continue to bless and use you as you provide helping hands to others.

In Christ in Mexico,

Ron and Jackie Cochran