



# The Raymers

## Missionaries to Mexico

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Dear Praying friends,

We are reminded multiple times in Psalm 136 to "Give thanks to the Lord." As we look at the past number of months our hearts and minds are full of questions asking if God truly know what He is doing. We look at the many personal issues that we, or our families or our friends have been encountering. We look at the struggles that our churches have been and are facing. Our feeble minds begin to question God and His sovereignty. We ask, "Where is God?" We know the answer, but the question still pops into our minds. The first three verses of Psalm 136 really help us to put things into perspective.

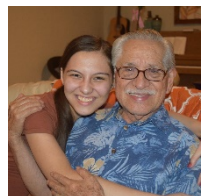
1. *O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
2. *O give thanks unto the God of gods: for his mercy endureth for ever.*
3. *O give thanks to the Lord of lords: for his mercy endureth for ever.*

God is good, God is full of mercy, and God loves us forever! He is always with us; He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us. The promises of God are sure and forever. Even in this time of uncertainty, we can rest of the mercy and love of our God.

As I place my mind and thoughts on the goodness and mercy of God, it lets me look back at 2020 with a heart full of thanks for what He has done.

Shortly before the pandemic and shutdowns began, God allowed Russell and Jonathan Latham to travel to Costa Rica to share the importance of preparing the next generation of Christian leaders and disciplinarians. This was just a few weeks before everything shut down.

During this time, we began overseeing the children's ministry at Iglesia Bautista Genezareth. The Lord put together a great team of workers at the church, but after 5 weeks of working with the new program, the churches and schools were closed. Since then God has allowed us to record weekly lessons for the children of our church, and now several other churches have used them as well. We are currently telling the story of Pilgrim's Progress and working on an exciting series of lessons leading us to Christmas showing the Christ of Christmas.



The Lord has allowed Russell to help numerous churches in Mexico, the United States and other areas with getting their churches online during this new era that the churches are living in. It is exciting to see the outreach that many churches have been able to have in spite of the doors of the churches being closed. Now that our church in Monterrey has been allowed to start having gatherings of 50% occupancy, we have seen visitors in nearly every service many due to people finding the church through the online presence.

This summer brought some new challenges to our family as well, but we saw God's hand each step of the way. For the past year, we have been planning with Russell's mother to move her full-time to Mission, TX. For the past nearly 20 years my parents had spent part of the year in Texas and part in Missouri. Now mom wanted to be in Texas full-time. The pandemic changed some of our initial plans, but then we saw God's mighty hand at work. In early June, Russell and his mom flew to Kansas City to finalize plans for her move in late July. During the few days he was there, they decided to go ahead and put the house on the market in June instead of waiting till our family returned in July. God once again showed His mighty hand and within 52 hours of putting the house on the market we had multiple offers, one of which mom accepted. In July, we along with the help of many were able to get mom moved down to Mission, TX. It was exciting to see God's hand each step of the way.

During this time, Debbie's father and step-mother were facing many serious health issues. In June, Kathy suffered a series of strokes leaving her in the hospital. Due to Covid regulations no one was able to visit her in the hospital. Due to the health needs of Debbie's dad, the family and counselors felt it wise for him to be with Debbie's youngest sister and family while Kathy was in the hospital and beginning her rehab. Debbie and Ana traveled with him to McAllen, TX where he was able to spend a little over a month with Ana and her family, and we were able to spend some sweet time of fellowship with him as well. After a month and when Kathy was out of the hospital, he was reunited with her in South Carolina. A couple of weeks later he got ill with pneumonia and Covid. After a couple of days in the hospital, God in His perfect will called this great man of God home to Glory. While we weep here on earth, we can give thanks to God for using Hno. Valente Hernandez in the lives of so many around the world.

As in many areas, the school system here in Mexico is closed to online learning only. This has continued to give challenges to the ministries here in Monterrey. Carena is in her last year of preparatory (high school). We are thankful that she continues to do well in her classes. We are praying for wisdom on decisions for her future educational studies. Russell has been teaching three classes at the university and Debbie is currently teaching one class.

The limits on congregating in groups has proven challenging for the Bible institute, but God has allowed us to continue teaching online during this time. This week we began our final class for the year. We are excited that we have a good, faithful group who will be finishing the Bible institute at the end of this course in December.

We close with the thought we stated with, "*O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*"

Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Russell, Debbie and Carena Raymer*