

CRAWFORD CONNECTION

OUR NEW ROLE WITH THE LATIN AMERICA AREA

In 2017 we sensed God leading us in a new direction, after living 23 years at the U.S./Mexico border in Nogales, AZ. Guy worked in a medical clinic in the U.S. and we both served in Free Methodist World Missions in Northern Mexico as Associate Missionaries (Self-supporting). We rejoice in the growth of the Mexican church, and so loved being part of it. It was a difficult decision to leave Nogales and our Mexican

Prayer Connection

In this column we will highlight specific prayer requests.

We want to share the goal of the Latin America Area: *The goal of Free Methodist World Missions in Latin America is to fuel and sustain a biblical movement to reach Latin Americans for Christ.*

This will happen by:

- *Empowering and coaching national leaders to multiply disciples, groups, leaders, and churches.*
- *Catalyzing initiatives and partnerships to plant clusters of churches in strategic cities.*

We are excited to be a part of this ministry, to see people come to know and serve Jesus! You can read more about the Latin America Area at: <http://latinamericaarea.com>

Please pray...

- I. For our first trip in our new role, to Nicaragua, **April 18-23**. Pray for Pastor Hiuberth Zapata, the mission district director and his family as they adjust to moving to Nicaragua from Costa Rica. Pray for wisdom for Guy and the leaders as they assess the health services for students at the FM school in Managua.



friends and churches! But we knew it was time, and it made sense to move north an hour to Tucson, where three of our children live, and their families.

Recently we were invited to take on a new role with Free Methodist World Missions which is to provide pastoral care, mentoring and support to FM missionaries in Latin America and their children (photo above is at a missionary retreat with our team). This role includes encouragement and spiritual nurture via emails, phone calls and field visits, special care in emergencies or times of crisis, and organization of prayer networks. In addition, Guy will facilitate medical services for FM schools in Managua, Nicaragua, and Betsy will provide support assistance for the Latin America Area Director.

CONNECTING A PRAYER TEAM

So where do you our friends and prayer partners fit in to our new role? One of the most important jobs we have is to gather a **prayer team!** In our newsletters we will highlight specific ways you can be praying for people in Latin America to come to know Jesus through the missionaries and leaders we will be visiting and caring for. We've included our email address and would love to hear from you, our prayer partners! Let us know how we can pray for you, and let us know you are praying for Latin America.

2. For Guy's balance of his full-time job as a family physician in Tucson, and our work with FMWM.

3. For our upcoming schedule to plan visits and time with our LA Area missionary families.

Our email:

guycrawford@mac.com

We are self-supporting missionaries, but if you would like to give towards our travel and ministry costs, this is our giving page:

<https://give.fmcusa.org/donation/df-aslacrawford>

We will also count on your prayers for us, for God to give us grace and wisdom in these new responsibilities.

OUR LATIN AMERICA AREA TEAM

We feel so privileged to be part of an amazing group of missionaries and national leaders in the Latin America Area. Our Area Director, Dr. Delia Nuesch -Olver and Associate Director, Pastor Paul Olver, have been a big encouragement to us. In January 2017 we were able to attend a missionary retreat in Colombia and spend precious time getting to know our leaders and our team. Betsy also was part of two other meetings in 2017 with Area leaders.

Along with church planting are many holistic ministries through which the love of Christ is shown. We will be sharing more each month as we connect through this newsletter.

“AND THEY WILL BEAR THE BURDEN WITH YOU”

In the Scriptures (Exodus 18) we read that Moses' father-in-law Jethro gave him some great advice when he visited and saw Moses occupied from dawn til dusk attending the many needs of the Israelites. Jethro urged Moses to appoint leaders to share the load. Guy and I hope that we will be a help to our Latin America Area team to “bear the burden with them” through coming alongside as together we work toward the goal of reaching Latin Americans for Christ.

