

CRAWFORD CONNECTION

2020 Month by Month...

We want to wish you a Happy New Year, and thank you for your prayers. While filled with challenges and difficulties, 2020 also showed us that God is always working...

January... a wonderful missionary retreat in Colombia with our Latin America missionary team. We were thankful to be with the families we are serving. Our week included times of refreshing, teaching from God's word, singing, as well as much prayer— we all joined in intercession for one family who couldn't attend, whose son was very ill (thankfully God healed him!) There were programs for the kids, games, and great tours of nearby attractions. A dream come, Betsy got to tag along on a birding foray with our expert missionary birders.

February was memorable for us on a personal note as God allowed us to be with Betsy's extended family in Michigan to celebrate her mother's 90th birthday, we are especially thankful this event came before the pandemic!

March came as the COVID-19 threat was just starting. Betsy visited Kay Stotts and kids in Indiana. Kay's family had been through son Ben's serious illness, and it was so good just to be with them for a few days of fellowship.

In **April and May** most of the families we serve experienced strict lockdowns in their countries, and pastors and churches throughout Latin America experienced economic hardships. Our team did a fundraiser, "Mount Everest Climb," which raised funds to help churches reach out into hard hit communities, and help support pastoral families. We praise God for bringing His church together and for the many who were moved by the Spirit to give! We all became familiar with "Zoom" and other technologies that have made communication not only possible locally but to places across the globe. Rather than slow down the spread of the gospel, we have seen much fruit this year. A Latin America Area wide Easter service was a highlight.

June, July and August we continued meeting in our small groups over Zoom, with a few weeks break in July. These groups meet bi-monthly for sharing and prayer. Guy and Betsy each lead two groups. We are thankful for the friendships that have been forged and strengthened in the year and a half that we have been doing this.

In **September, October and November** regular contact with our missionary families continued, and Betsy continued working with a team developing a children's curriculum for our Latin American churches, and with a team developing more effective care for missionary children (TCK's- Third Culture Kids).

December ushered in an Advent celebration in our churches in Latin America. Weekly meditations, as well as a beautiful area-wide Christmas service brought more than 3,000 believers together virtually. It has been a joy to walk alongside our North American missionaries, who are in turn walking alongside pastors and leaders in their countries of ministry during very trying times, and see God "working all things together for good" and for His glory.

More info: Please visit the Impact Latin America web page if you'd like to read stories, newsletters and see videos of how God is working in building His church in Latin America! <https://impactlatinamerica.org>

To contact us: If you'd like to contribute towards our ministry of pastoral care to missionaries in Latin America, please contact us at guycrawford@mac.com.

Prayer requests: Pray for wisdom and guidance in the continuing pandemic, as we continue serving about 12 families in the coming year. We hope to be able to visit some of them as safety permits.

Like so many families in Latin America and across the globe our family experienced the loss of a loved one from COVID-19. Betsy's brother-in-law Bruce passed away Dec. 28th after a month long battle, but we are comforted knowing Bruce's hope was in the Lord, and He is now in the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus. Please pray especially for our sister, Linda and family as they grieve this loss.

