

# PANAMÁ NEWS

NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

## Did you know?

The country that sends the most tourists to Panamá is the United States followed by Colombia.



## Ezra's Corner

I am 4 years old now! I had a birthday on April 29th. I got to spend time with my family, had a birthday party at my school with my teacher and school friends, and then a dirt cake with my missionary friends. One thing we have done recently is put up some hummingbird feeders around our house. Now we have hummingbirds all over the place. I like to watch them eat and chase each other.

## Resting in Jesus

¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡Ha resucitado en verdad, aleluya! We hope this newsletter finds you well and still celebrating the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Holy Week is a wonderful time in the church and in the

life of a pastor, but is quite exhausting as well. What I had not previously considered is how tiring Holy Week can be for the family too, especially children. This past Holy Week I preached Palm Sunday on Saturday night in Los Andes and Sunday in Sorá and then preached Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday in Los Andres doing some with my family in tow. I remember Ezra asking throughout the week, “Dad, are we going to church today too?” “Why are we going to church at night? It is supposed to be during the morning!” “How come the church is dark?” He was a trooper this year. The photograph above was taken at the end of the Good Friday service. Somewhere between the reflections on the 4th and 7th words of Jesus from the cross, he laid his head down on the Bible and took a nap.



Ezra resting in Jesus during Holy Week

I find this to be a wonderful image of the Christian life. Christ died and rose again so that we are forgiven, reconciled to God, and united to Him forever. I think that we generally spend far too little time resting in that Good News and joy. We are busy people always bustling to the next thing. What I learned from my son this past Holy Week is that there is no better place to rest than in the hands of Jesus. Remember, the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus is not just another “thing” on the calendar. It is the event that shapes and informs our being as God’s children. May you find rest in Jesus our resurrected Lord this Easter season!



## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVING

### PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Amanda and baby girl for healthy delivery.
- The newly elected leadership of the Lutheran Church of Panamá.
- Panamá's spring FORO meeting on May 10-12.
- The Rickman family as they work towards residency in Panamá.

### GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The beautiful Holy Week worship services throughout the churches in Panamá.
- Safe travels for Brian this past month.
- Ezra's 4th birthday and another year of life and faith in Jesus.
- The first graduating class of pastors from the seminary in the Dominican Republic.



## Family News

We are in the last month of Amanda's pregnancy and are eagerly looking forward to our daughter's birth. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as her due date approaches both that everything goes smoothly and that our anxieties are calmed as we remain uncertain on what this experience will be like in a different country. Ezra continues to love the outdoors and animal life. As pictured below, he has been very active in helping plant flowers and bushes around the yard as well as cleaning up around our messy mango tree. He has also been watching anxiously as a Clay-Colored Thrush, a Crimson-Backed Tanager and a Rusty-Margined Flycatcher have all made nests in our front trees to lay their eggs. He is our little bird watcher. Blessings in Christ.

-Brian, Amanda, & Ezra



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