

# PANAMÁ NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

### Did you know?

Panamá has 21 airports with the capital's main airport, Tocumen, being the most busy in all of Central America.

### Ezra's Corner



I have been really busy lately. We moved to a new house so I had to help pack and carry stuff down the street. Then I helped my mom get ready for Thanksgiving. I scooped out the pumpkin for bread and watched as she prepared the food. It was delicious! I also cut snowflakes out of paper and colored one for each member of my family. Finally, I helped put the lights and decorations on our Christmas tree. Now it is Advent! Hope you are well!

### Giving Thanks

St. Paul says in his first letter to the Thessalonians: *Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1 Thes. 5:16-18.



For what do you give thanks? November and the celebration of Thanksgiving provides us the opportunity to intentionally reflect on that for which we give thanks. Obviously, as Christians, we recognize that all things come from our heavenly Father so our giving thanks is a daily practice, not just something to do once a year. There is, however, value in taking time to think about all that the Lord has done and give thanks. This year our family sat around our table and thanked the Lord for his many blessings. We would like to share some of these things with you:

- For you, your prayers, your kind words of support and financial support of the mission work we are doing in Panamá.
- The birth of our daughter, Aviva Eliana, and her new birth in the waters of Holy Baptism.
- Good health for our children.
- Safe travels for Brian throughout Latin America this past year.
- Successful transition into pre-school for Ezra.
- The Lord's continued faithfulness and goodness to us in all circumstances.

We pray that this newsletter finds you well and counting the blessings that you have received and giving thanks for all that you have. The Lord is certainly good!



## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVING

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Ken & Marta Peterson who return to Panamá after Marta’s surgery.
- Brian and his family at the death of his grandfather.
- Marta’s brother who is near death.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The deaconess students in Loma Cova who finished their second course of the program.
- Safe travels for Brian to Guatemala to teach.
- A wonderful celebration of the Reformation and various anniversaries of churches in Panamá.



## Understanding Panamá

November is the month of national pride in Panamá as the country celebrates both its independence from Spain (November 28, 1821) and its separation from Colombia (November 3, 1903). Panamanians have countless days off throughout the month and everyone marches in parades to celebrate Panama’s independence. It is quite a sight to behold. In our small community, they set up 116 Panamanian flags in a field, one for each year since the separation from Colombia. These are certainly fun days to be in Panamá and watch Panamanians rejoice. The celebrations turn more somber in December as they remember Operation Just Cause or as it is known around here as, “The Invasion” which took place on December 20, 1989.



Since Aviva was born in Panamá and is a Panamanian citizen, we have enjoyed getting to know better the customs and various celebrations of Panamá. She has known nothing other than Panamá so will need to be taught about holidays and celebrations in the United States. The opposite was true for her brother and parents who knew the customs and celebrations of the United States, but needed to be taught those of Panamá.



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