

# PANAMÁ NEWS

## NEWS FROM THE GAUTHIER FAMILY

### Ezra's Corner

Well, because of Coronavirus I was not able to go back to my school, but I did some class stuff on the computer with my teacher and friends. I am going to miss them when we move.



I have been busy digging up worms in the back yard and playing dinosaurs in the front yard. The other day I found a Praying Mantis on mommy's favorite plant with purple flowers. He hung around eating ants for four days! The good news is that we are allowed to leave our house again so I have gone on a couple of runs with my daddy. I have enjoyed seeing all the animals again. Thank you for praying for us. I am going to miss you! Maybe I will see you someday in Nebraska!

### Exactly the Same and Totally Different

That is how I describe serving as a missionary during a global pandemic. For 67 days, we endured one of the most strict, complete lockdowns in all the world. Our lives were different. The work I did as a pastor was different. I spent hours on a computer using various digital platforms for meetings, bible studies and church services. Before entering any building my temperature is taken, sanitizer is sprayed on my hands and I walk over a special disinfectant mat to ensure that my shoes are clean. Totally different.

Yet, on the other hand, missionary work is exactly the same as it was. I may now wear a mask wherever I go and 75% of my work is on a computer screen, but the content of my preaching, teaching and pastoral care is 100% exactly the same. Jesus, the Son of God, is your Savior having died on the cross to fully forgive you for your sins. After three days He rose victoriously from the tomb. Whether I am masked, speaking through a camera mounted on my computer screen or am face-to-face speaking in Spanish, what I say has not changed. The same great news of "Jesus for you" remains the same yesterday, today and forever.

In three weeks our lives will be totally different again as our stuff heads off in a shipping container and we make our way to Seward, Nebraska (pop. 8000). This life will be totally different from that in Panama City (pop. 1.8 million). Yet what I do, say, confess and teach will be exactly the same. It is a honor and absolute privilege to serve in the Office of the Holy Ministry where I can preach and teach Jesus crucified and resurrected from the pulpit as a missionary or within the classroom as a professor. In that sense, our life will be exactly the same.

Thank you for your prayers, your financial support and your words of encouragement. Because of you and your desire to serve our Lord Jesus, our lives will never be the same. The Lord's continued blessings to you and your families. ¡A Dios sea la gloria!



## PRAYER REQUESTS & THANKSGIVING

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Our transition back to the United States.
- Mauricio at the death of his sister-in-law.
- Joel Miranda who was hospitalized with sever stomach pain.

GIVE THANKS FOR:

- The 4.5 wonderful years serving with the Office of Intl. Mission.
- A solid plan for a continuation of the work in Panamá.
- That the Church is the Lord's and that he continues to care for and sustain it.



## Family Update

Moving is never easy. Moving internationally is worse. Moving internationally during a pandemic is the worst, but we are making do. Our plan, given that the international airport opens back up again on June 22, is to leave Panamá on June 26. Please keep us in your prayers!

In the last six weeks we have celebrated both of our children's birthdays and baptismal birthdays (Ezra - 5 and Aviva - 1). Ezra is looking forward to life in Nebraska. He will enter kindergarten at St John Lutheran. He also cannot wait to play in snow. Aviva is happy as long as she can still play with her brother. Since Aviva was born in Panamá, we hope to visit with some regularity. Her godparents also serve in the Panamanian Lutheran Church. Amanda is excited to settle down, again, in Nebraska. She lived in Beatrice for a number of years when she was a little girl. Brian looks forward to teaching at Concordia and finishing his dissertation. From our family to yours, thank you!



5th Birthday



1st Birthday



with her godfather



best buddies



virtual school



Being "pastor"