Cityview COMMUNITY CHURCH

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And When Your Children Ask...

1 message

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WENDEL FAMILY UPDATE

Fall 2026

Birthdays. Anniversaries. Holidays. Milestones.

We all love a reason to celebrate. But throughout Scripture, God calls His people to do more than celebrate. He calls them to remember.

Again and again, God instructed His people to mark significant moments so future generations would ask questions and hear the story of His faithfulness:

"And when your children ask you, 'What does this ceremony mean to you?'..."

"On that day tell your son, 'I do this because of what the Lord did for me.'"

"In the future when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them..."

(Exodus 12:26, Exodus 13:8, Joshua 4:6-7, respectively)

This year our family

has several milestones worth remembering.

And when our children and grandchildren ask, *"What does this mean?"* we can tell them what the Lord has done.

15 Years Ago (this month!)

The Lord led us to **Latin America** to serve as Regional Directors for the continent. The following year we would be moving our family to Uruguay. Since then, we have witnessed and teamed to see churches planted and strengthened across the region, seminaries established, new missionary movements emerge, and national churches take ownership of God's mission. Behind every ministry milestone are lives being transformed by the love and hope of Christ.

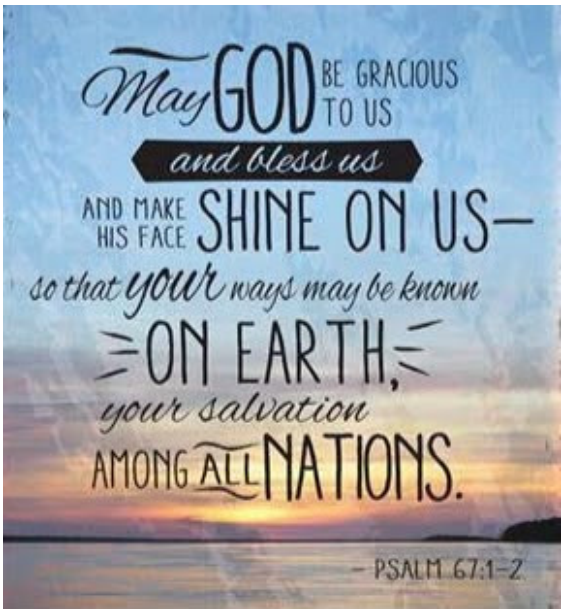
25 Years Ago (this December!)

The Lord led us to **Spain** as first-term missionaries helping plant a church outside Madrid. Through English camps, friendships, school communities, and everyday life, He opened countless doors for the gospel that continue to this day. We also saw the foundation laid for what would become **LIFE International Christian School**, a ministry started by our colleagues that impacts lives today and for the next generation.

32 Years Ago

Ok. Not exactly a milestone anniversary... but worth celebrating! God brought us together in **marriage.** Engraved on our wedding rings is **Psalm 67**, a passage that has shaped both our marriage and ministry.

With God's strength, that remains our prayer today.



God has been gracious to us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Over the years, we have seen His ways made known among the nations, people worshiping Him, and lives transformed by the gospel.

And we continue to serve toward that same purpose.

Thank you for partnering with us through your prayers, encouragement, and financial support. You are part of this story of God's faithfulness among the nations.

Celebrating the Last Few Months

June | Multiplication Through New Beginnings

Last month we spoke about God's "math". In Paraguay we spent time with our team as they prayerfully restructured into smaller ministry initiatives, seeking new ways to reach more people.

God is already opening doors:

- One missionary couple is pursuing ministry among indigenous communities, of the 800 groups, 500 have no access to the gospel. So many lives living in darkness.

- Another couple has begun gathering neighbors for simple home-based church meetings, bringing down cultural walls.
- A third couple is building relationships through English conversation classes, using Bible stories as a natural bridge to meaningful discussions about vocabulary and... Jesus' transforming power!

July | Investing in the Next Generation
July brought several opportunities to encourage and equip future workers.

- Our own daughter, Olivia spent part of her summer serving in **Togo** through a Cedarville University medical missions' team. She was able to witness God's work through children's ministry, medical opportunities and Bible distribution via orality.
- We also participated in our annual week-long conference for missionaries heading to and returning from the field.
- Melanie had the privilege of serving with the **TCK (Third Culture Kid)** program, encouraging missionary families and their children.

August | Vision and New Opportunities
August included an African American Vision Trip to Paraguay and Uruguay. Through testimonies, prayer walks, tea-tasting outreach events, and fellowship, these young adults gained a firsthand glimpse of God's work across Latin America and explored how the Lord might use them in global missions.

We were also thrilled to see construction finally begin on our ministry center project in Uruguay. After much prayer and waiting, the building is going up, with completion anticipated later this year.

September | Celebrating What God Is Doing
September was filled with reminders of God's faithfulness:

- A church in **Punta Cana, Dominican Republic**, started by Alliance missionaries a decade ago, celebrated its dedication as a thriving, self-sustaining congregation.
- We participated in the annual Latin America Alliance Church gathering in the Dominican Republic.
- The Latin America Alliance Women's **AMADA ("Beloved") Retreat** brought 700 women together for encouragement and spiritual growth.
- Melanie also helped promote **Samuel House**, a missionary training program preparing Latin Americans for cross-cultural ministry around the world.

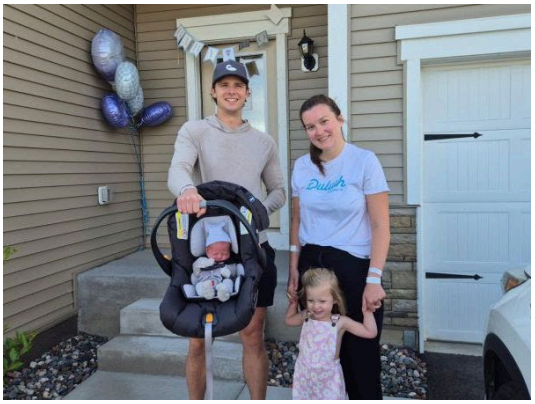
It is exciting to see God mobilizing His Church throughout Latin America and beyond

And Then... Grandsons!

To top it all off…
In September, God blessed our family with **three new grandsons**!

- **September 1:** Identical twin boys, Peter John and Paul David were born to Nathanael and Kira.
- **September 11:** Lucas Michael was born to Timothy and Liz, joining big sister Elise Marie.

We praise God for this next generation and pray that they, too, will make **His ways known on earth and His salvation among all nations.**



Asia and back...

As we write this, we have just returned from a three-week trip to Asia.
Our time included:

- Encouraging and strengthening partnerships with the Latin American Alliance church in **Tokyo, Japan**.
- Attending the **Alliance World Fellowship Mission Conference** and the **Asia Pacific National Church Conference** in **Indonesia**.
- Meeting with fellow regional leaders to discuss opportunities for greater global collaboration.
- Visiting **Korea** to explore new ministry partnerships between Latin America and the Asian church.

Please pray that God would use every conversation, strengthen existing relationships, and open new doors for cooperation in advancing His mission around the world.

To Reflect...

What story of God's faithfulness do you need to pause and celebrate today?

We want to close with this picture of the Japanese Peruvian church in Tokyo. Represented here are the children and grandchildren of Japanese immigrants who went to Latin America in the late 1800's and early 1900s. Some, never even came to know Christ personally, but God in His mercy allowed their offspring to come to know HIM and then return to bring the light of Christ to a dark place such as Japan. That is how our God works to bring the WORLD His saving power!

And if your children or grandchildren were to ask, "What does this mean?" how would you tell them about the ways God has led you and your family by His mighty hand?

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