

AARON & AUBRIE AMIRA • ANABEL • ARIS • ALETHEA

DUR MISSIONARIES IN

evangelizing

establishing equipping LOCAL CHURCHES



Information

AARON VANCE

aaronlvance@gmail.com (678) 696-0082 [USA] +57 (304) 546-8596 [COL] www.BeMagnified.org

Field Address: Carrera 28 # 20-30 Bucaramanga - Santander COLOMBIA [680002]



MACEDONIA WORLD BAPTIST MISSIONS, INC.

> PO Box 519 Braselton, GA 30517 "Aaron Vance - 322"

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Dr. Charles Blackstock, Pastor www.lighthouse-baptist.com (706) 265-9868



Dear Praying Friends & Family,

The Apostle Paul affirmed from a Roman prison that he was suffering and bound, "but the word of God is not bound" (2 Timothy 2:9). God continues to work, even through quarantines and lockdowns! We have seen some incredible stuff here in Colombia during the past months. Also, we're excited to announce a new door of ministry that God has opened for us. Read on for more!

MINISTRY IN TIMES OF COVID

As I write this letter at the end of July, we are now passing 130 days of national quarantine lockdown. It would be easy to hunker down and wait for this pandemic to pass. Ministry looks different and is honestly challenging, but we always need to move forward with God! After over four months of virtual church services, fellowships, classes, discipleship, and counseling, we feel a bit of virtual fatigue. But as we take a step back and look at what God has done, it's all worth it! We've seen several people saved, new converts grow, and families restored. Seven of our church members have had loved ones pass away during this time. It has been tough but also has provided opportunities to lead other family members to Christ. We keep hearing of formerly antagonistic brothers, parents, and neighbors who are hearing and believing. I was able to share the Gospel with a 30-year-old man with AIDS on his deathbed just hours before he passed. Another man, an agnostic in his 70s, accepted Christ last week. It's worth it!

A HUGE STEP OF FAITH

Three years ago, the former pastor of a Charismatic church on the south side of our city contacted me. He asked if we'd be interested in taking their building. It wasn't right timing then because we were starting our second church in the far north region. He contacted me again almost two months ago and offered it to us again. This time, I went to look at the possibility, along with several men from our



Amira organized a weekly Bible stu with other kids in our neighborhood



Abelardo & Janet were 1 of severa couples who finished our premarital course & married during quarantine.



gathering until we can meet in person



The inside of the new church building. There's much to do!

church. It is in a very strategic area where we desperately need a church, and we have talked about the potential for some time now. Well, it seems now is the time. After praying, fasting, and seeking counsel, God has let everything fall into place. We have decided to move forward in faith to start another church, even though we're still waiting on the government to lift church-meeting restrictions. Taking a step like this seems a bit crazy, but I believe the Lord is in it! We're going to take a few families and start this work from scratch. In a virtual business meeting, our main church voted unanimously to accept Félix, one of our preachers, as their pastor, and in favor of the new work. It feels like a trust fall, but I'm amazed at how God seems to be leading and affirming this decision. Over the next two months, we will be getting things ready to start having services in the Agape Baptist Church. There are so many things we will need to purchase, and though we already have some savings for this church plant effort, we could use some more help with the finances of getting started. We would be grateful for anything you'd like to send. You can give online or by mail through MWBM and mark the gift "A. Vance - church plant."

A CLOSE CALL WITH THE FAMILY

The national government still requires minors and adults over 70 to remain in their homes, except to walk within a half-mile of their house occasionally. Well, Aubrie recently took our 10-year-old Amira out to walk and spend a little time with her. A man on a motorcycle stopped to rob them at knifepoint. Thankfully he only got their picnic breakfast and some art supplies, and, praise the Lord, they are both OK. Pray for those who are desperate during this time.

STAYING FOCUSED

We came to Colombia to evangelize the lost, establish local churches, and equip leaders (at least, that's what's on our prayer card). Since we arrived nearly seven years ago, God has guided us in fulfilling those goals and allowed us to see things of which we had only dreamt. However, the work isn't done yet. We must keep focused on Christ and his mission, even amid uncertain times. Thank you for faithfully supporting the ministry and praying for us. We'd love to hear from you. How can we be praying better for you?