



May 2026

Dear Brethren,

Iglesia Bautista Jardines de la Cruz:

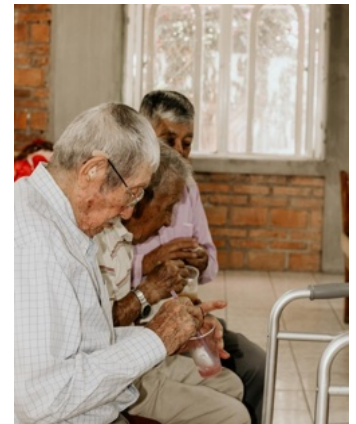
If you recall, I have been helping a church called Iglesia Bautista Jardines de la Cruz since last year. I have been helping them because the church has been without a pastor for quite some time. This past March, the church officially voted for me to become their pastor. I have now been pastoring the church for almost two months. It has been challenging, but it has also been a blessing. God has already been showing me many things.



This past week, with the help of my pastor, Jerry Shaw, and a missionary named Trent Granger, we worked as gardeners around the church property. We trimmed trees around the building that had not been cut for years, and some branches were touching electrical wires. We are still working on that project.

Also, the church will soon be having a Vacation Bible School. This is the first Vacation Bible School that Jardines de la Cruz has had in a long time. The goal is to bring many children to church so they can also bring their parents, allowing the church to grow. It's a classic approach, and we are praying that the community responds well.

This past Sunday, we celebrated Family Day at Jardines de la Cruz. We had a wonderful time. Missionary Trent helped by preaching the morning message, and I taught the Sunday school lesson. We both focused on the family. After the service, we had a carne asada (BBQ) to celebrate family, especially the church family.



Bible School Ministry:

We are finally ending our school year next week. Classes finished a week ago, but graduation day will be on June 6th. This year we are only having one graduate. Her name is Maria Fernanda Sanchez, and she has been waiting for this moment for quite some time. She is very excited. Next school year, we will finally have two interns joining us. Both are coming from Puebla, Mexico. The intern housing was closed this year due to remodeling. Even though the work is not completely finished yet, it should be mostly done by September when the new interns arrive.



Personal:

I forgot to mention this in my previous prayer letters, but I am getting married in November 2026! God has truly been merciful. I could not ask for a better partner in ministry. Her name is Lesly Jimenez. She has the kind of character that always keeps her busy serving, which encourages me to do more as well.

I met her at my home church. She had been attending our church for two years before I asked her out. Funny enough, I asked her out on a dare from my pastor, and sure enough, things worked out well. Now we are getting married. I cannot express how thankful I am to the Lord for this. I have been praying for my future wife since I was a teenager, and God surely answers prayers in His timing.

Please help me pray for us because in the fall of 2027 I will be returning to the States for furlough. I pray that God will provide Lesly with a visa so she can travel with me and meet everyone.

God continues to work here in Mexico. Blessings to all of you from your missionary in the land of tacos.

Salvador Lara Jr.

