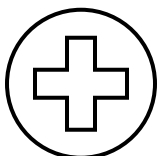


September 2021

Dear supporters, friends, family members, greetings from Mexico City! Here is news about us and the ministry here.

Michigan vaccination trip



We are grateful to God for the opportunity the four of us had to travel to Michigan to get vaccinated. During quarantine time and before our second dose, I worked

on field-related matters and research and writing for my Spanish materials, and we mostly stayed at home. After that, we were able to visit family and a few others, get some shopping in, and celebrate our 30th anniversary with a meal and a movie (an anniversary getaway trip in Mexico is forthcoming). Now we are back in Mexico, and our dog Muffin was the first to greet us!

COVID-19 in Michigan vs Mexico



We found the contrast between Michigan and Mexico fascinating on this trip: In Mexico, masks are obligatory when going out; the vaccine rollout is still

slow, requiring enrollment on a government site and a period of waiting for your turn to come up; and entering any store requires wiping your feet, wearing your mask, getting your temperature checked, and using their provided hand sanitizer. Most parents are very hesitant to send their kids back to school.

By contrast, in Michigan, few people wear masks, you can get your vaccine just by walking into the pharmacy, the topic of Covid-19 is politicized, and many parents get upset when they *can't* send their kids back to school.

Dave and Blanca Gifford
In Mexico City with



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Our experience in Michigan felt awkward for us at times, after having been in Mexico for the entire pandemic up to that point.

Personal reflections



We see so much fear in both Mexico and the USA, some fearing Covid or poverty or loneliness. Others fearing one political party or the other, or that

their freedoms will be taken away. And we see so much anger and hate, directed this way and that.

We prefer to imagine a different scenario, where we all deposit those concerns in God's hands, and accept what God gives us each day, whatever hand he deals us. Where we respond with gratitude and love to God, and with love and mercy to others, no matter what party or race or religion or social class they belong to.

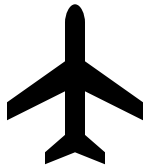
In this scenario we commit to doing what is right in God's sight, content but never complacent: working together, building our countries, building our churches and neighborhoods, building our families and businesses, and building our character. Acting not out of hate or suspicion, anger or fear, impulse or impatience. Acting out of faithfulness and love. Acting out of trust and calm reliance on God and his grace.

Regardless of what political persuasion you come from, regardless of whether you got vaccinated or are convinced you should not,

if you are a disciple of Christ, this scenario of trust, gratitude and love should be second nature to you by now. And if it isn't, it can be. You can start fresh with God leading you by the hand. Peace can prevail.

This is our heartfelt wish and prayer for all of you, who have been so kind to us by your prayers and financial support and emails and texts and 'likes'. And it's our prayer for us, too. Like Paul, we don't claimed to have attained all this yet. We just push forward, one day at a time.

Reconnect



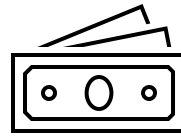
Hopefully, very soon we will be showing up on your door to see if that prayer has come true for you. The mission has given us the green light (barring a major 2020-style lockdown) to start planning our Reconnect for the first half of 2022. Our home service was supposed to be mid-2020. Then mid-2021. Third time's a charm! We are eager to see all of you. Please pray for our preparations. And feel free to contact us to schedule a visit.

Spanish materials



As I mentioned previously, this semester I am setting aside other ministry labors in order to work on Spanish materials. I have researched some really helpful material, and have had a few technical breakthroughs that will enhance the writing and reading of the materials I provide on <https://giffmex.org/wiki>. God is good! Please pray for me now as I use those gains to provide Christians with helpful tools for their lives and ministries.

Support news



Thanks to the Lord and to our supporters, in June we reached our 2020-2021 goal with \$200 to spare. Thank you so much!

Now we, and all the Resonate missionaries, are faced with raising quite a bit more, mostly due to the change from Ministry Shares to pledges. Please pray for us as we contact several new churches to expand our support and prayer base.

Employment available



As I mentioned in May, we have an open position for a full time missionary to be a mission network developer in Mexico City. I'm going to keep mentioning it until we start getting candidates to interview. Please pray about this and get the word out. More information here:

<https://crcna.pinpointhq.com/en/jobs/8325>

Thank you all for your prayers, financial support, and words of encouragement. God bless you all in Christ Jesus!

Dave, Blanca, Daniel and Alexandra Gifford