



# Azaria and David Pocasangre

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**Location:** Guatemala



**What we do:** Supporting vulnerable communities, especially young people and families, through partnership with the local church

Dear family and friends,

We are not sure if you feel the same, but we feel like time has gone by quickly since we last wrote to you. We have lots to share and hope you enjoy reading our news.

We've mentioned before our shared ministry in Bethania, a vulnerable community where we work with children, youth and their families. Each year we have two terms of workshops, and this term we started leading some weekly workshops. On Mondays we are with the younger children (aged 9-13) and on Wednesdays we are with the teens (aged 14+). We always start with a time to connect and have a snack, then we share a devotional and finish with a singing workshop. We really enjoy this time to get to know the children and youth better. We also enjoy sharing Bible stories and exploring questions together. It's lots of fun but has stretched our knowledge at times. Once when we were discussing sin and Jesus' perfection, one of the more active and chatty boys casually asked us, "If Jesus was sinless why did he get angry and throw over tables?" This led to a very interesting conversation about anger, emotions and sin with our little group of children eager to learn about God. We love how much they challenge us and how we are all growing together.



Workshop with the children in Bethania.

It has also been a blessing to see the teenagers open up and grow in confidence. We recently went to a trampoline park to celebrate together and say farewell to two of the team members. It was joyful to see all the children playing, but it was especially heart warming to see one 15-year-old boy play and laugh like a child. Knowing some of his story, it was special for him to have this space to play and have fun in a safe environment, with safe people. When we first met him, he barely spoke and would never look us in the eye – now he will happily chat to us and have deep conversations. *Please join us in giving thanks for the children and youth in Bethania and pray for us as we finish the year of activities.*

As we've previously shared, we are passionate about community and shared life. Recently we were invited to become facilitators of a new missional community (church home group) along with another couple from our church and we are very excited to start building community with a new group of church members. *Please pray for us as we start this new missional community.*

I, Azaria, was able to host another activity with the mentors I support, where we could connect, share and grow in community together. I'm enjoying creating spaces for us and seeing people connecting and supporting each other. The document I have been preparing has been sent for external editing and will soon be ready to share with government authorities and children's homes, with a view to increasing awareness

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of the value of mentoring. I am also super thankful for the new mentors that were trained earlier this year and I have since referred to children's homes. We now have 91 active mentors. As we plan for next year our focus is encouraging Christian men to become mentors. We only have 23 male mentors, 19 of those are married and serve as mentors with their wives, which we celebrate, but there is a big need for male role models.

I have also continued to lead activities with the women from the families in Bethania, which have been lovely. However there has been lower attendance and we are exploring how best to connect and support these women. *Please pray for the presentation of the mentoring document, for more mentors, especially men, and for the women in Bethania and for God's guidance as we seek how best to serve them.*

I, David, was recently able to gather the directors of the worship bands from our local church for a meeting where we could connect and share ideas and plans for the future. It was great to be able to start shaping the ministry. You might remember that our church was planning its nine-year anniversary celebration, which was in July. My favourite part was preparing the church youth to sing as a choir in the celebration: on the day it was a highlight for many.

Earlier this year I was invited to lead worship at a conference in Thailand for TEAM (The Evangelical Alliance Mission) missionaries. It was a fantastic experience where I was surrounded by missionaries from around the world, learning from their journeys. It was a privilege to lead them in worship.

Since our Father's Day activity for the men from families in Bethania we have had monthly activities with them. Unfortunately, we have had low attendance so are thinking more about their needs and how we can support them. *Please pray for the worship band leaders, for the men in Bethania and for God's guidance.*

We are also looking forward to celebrating our first wedding anniversary on 12 November. God has been abundantly good to us! That day we will be flying to Costa Rica for a conference with ACH (Alianza Cristiana para los Huérfanos, the Christian Alliance for Orphans). *Please join us in giving thanks for our first year of marriage and pray for us as we attend this exciting orphan care conference.*

As we approach the end of 2024 we would like to take the opportunity to **truly thank you from the bottom of our hearts** for your consistent support, prayers and generous gifts that enable us to serve here. With some concern, we need to share that at the moment, due to increased living costs for us (especially since we got married and our budget increased) and our supporters, **our funding is at risk of falling below what is needed** for us to carry out our work. *Please join us in giving thanks for God's provision and in praying that God will provide to meet that gap.* If you are able to increase your regular giving or to give an additional gift this year, we would really appreciate you prayerfully considering it. You can give online at [churchmissionsociety.org/pocasangre](https://churchmissionsociety.org/pocasangre), call 01865 787489 or complete the enclosed form if you have received this letter through the post. (For our supporting churches, if you are able to give a further gift please contact [churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:churchrelations@churchmissionsociety.org).) We understand this might not be possible – **please know that we greatly value your support**, and thank you for letting us share our challenge with you.

Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers.

Love and blessings  
David and Azaria x



*Photos from top to bottom: Singing workshop in Bethania; day trip to trampoline park with the children and youth from Bethania (not our baby!); Azaria leading the mentoring activity; Azaria on a panel sharing about leadership and mission.*



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