



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



Bringing hope where people have given up on God and the church

Dear family and friends,

Happy New Year! Here is our first link letter of 2025.

Some of you may already know that we had an unexpected trip to the UK over Christmas due to Zeph's (Azaria's brother) leukaemia diagnosis. Thank you all for your prayers for us and Zeph, we are pleased to share that Zeph is doing great and is responding well to treatment. We are especially thankful to God and his hand over us all throughout this time. We were blessed through friends helping us with our flights and it was very special to have Christmas dinner in the hospital with Zeph, complete with crackers and crowns. David especially enjoys our British traditions. It was also really lovely to see how well Azaria's family were being cared for and supported by their local church family.

We have often shared our passion and love for community and the local church. We shared before that we started co-facilitating a missional community (home group) and we have been enjoying connecting with the other members and starting to get to know everyone.

Please continue to pray for Zeph, his treatment and recovery. Also pray for shared growth for our missional community.

You might remember that we have been serving in Bethania, a vulnerable community, for over a year now and everyone there has become a big part of our lives. One thing that really moved us was that when we shared about Zeph's diagnosis before Christmas and the youth said they would be praying for him and us, it felt very genuine. This is real relationship and shared life. We missed the children and youth over Christmas and were happy to see them when the workshops started again. We feel like God is using us as we have been able to slowly become adults the children and youth can confide in and share with. The singing workshops are fun and we all learn and grow together but the real mutual blessings are the healthy relationships and connections.

Just last week Gisel, one of the young people, arrived before the others and we were able to chat with her, just the three of us. She shared with us about her hopes and dreams for the future and some of her step-by-step goals to get there. A year ago, she barely even spoke and for her to now share so freely is so special and encouraging. She shared how she wants to be an accountant to provide for her family and



Christmas in hospital with Azaria's family

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**With Jesus
 With each other
 To the edges**



then later study to become a surgeon. This might seem like a normal-ish thing to happen, a teenager sharing about their dreams, but knowing Gisel and her context, it's huge that she has these dreams and can express them. It was a privilege to listen to her share and be able to encourage her and point her to God; to trust in him and seek his guidance for her life.

Later this year the ministry in Bethania will go through a transition to hand over responsibility and leadership to the local church. As a team it is important that this transition is as smooth and healthy as possible, and we are exploring how best to support the local church in Bethania. We are hoping to remain part of the ministry and continue connecting with the children, youth and their families.

Please pray for us as a team in Bethania, for the local church and particularly for the children and youth during this transition. Pray for God's guidance and peace especially if at some point we have to say goodbye.

I, Azaria, have been enjoying connecting with the mentors I support. We just had our third group activity, which was attended by more mentors than previous activities. During a recent coffee with a new mentor I realised she was having similar challenges to one of our more experienced mentors, so I put them in touch with each other. It was so encouraging when they arrived together at the activity, and I found out that the connection I made had grown into a mutually supportive friendship.

I am excited that training starts in April and hopefully later this year we will have a good number of new mentors to refer to the children's homes.

I would also like to share how proud I am of David; it has been a blessing to see him grow in his leadership role and see how God is using him to serve others. I am especially thankful for how God has grown a resilience in him for the constantly changing lifestyle of a missionary, which is still new for him.

I, David, have been developing a process for new members to join the worship ministry at our local church, focusing on discipleship and exploring why and how we serve. We are finally implementing this new process with nine members, which is very exciting. I am also working closely with the church elders to help introduce more liturgical practices during Sunday services, to help centre us as a congregation on worship. It was lovely to hear one of Azaria's mentors describe her as "la mentora de los mentores" ("the mentor of mentors") during their group activity. She has grown a lot in her role and is creating a safe, supportive community where mentors can grow.

Please pray for us as we continue to serve God together in Bethania and through our individual roles, that God will use us for his glory. Please also pray for increased financial support and join us as we give thanks for God's continued provision.

Thank you for your continued support, love and prayers.

Love and blessings,
David and Azaria x



Photos from top to bottom: Azaria doing a devotional with children in Bethania; David with young people in Bethania; David and Azaria with some of the team at their local church, Iglesia Reforma; activity with mentors



Bringing hope where people have given up on God and church

We've been encouraged to hear stories from others who are part of our wider area of work. In Honduras, Carlos had a change of heart working with a Christian ministry, and in the UK Garry Ion reports on how Carlisle's Community Shed is sharing skills, community and Jesus. Read more at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope