



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



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus with people unconnected to church

Dear family and friends,

We are delighted to be writing to you all, and even more delighted to share the wonderful news of the arrival of our beautiful baby girl, Alicia Joy.

Alicia made her appearance on 18 May, and she has been capturing our hearts ever since. Many people say she is the perfect mix of Mummy and Daddy – we'll let you be the judge! These first two months have been a whirlwind of emotions and change, and throughout it all we have seen God's love in so many tangible ways. Having Azaria's mum with us during those first few weeks was an enormous blessing. She helped us navigate all the changes, and Alicia loved bonding with Grandma. David's family have also been incredibly supportive and excited to welcome their first grandchild and niece. Our church family has been such a blessing too. They provided us with meals for a whole month, and everyone was so happy to meet Alicia once we began having visitors and returned to church. David had a month of paternity leave, which gave us precious time together as a family before he returned to work in June. Going back to work was a big adjustment, but Azaria has been embracing motherhood, and Alicia's little smiles make every day that bit sweeter.



Alicia at two months old

Alicia has been alert from day one, and her curiosity about the world around her seems to grow every day – as does she! She enjoys walks outside, sleeping in her body wrap, bath time and being sung and read to.

Please join us in giving thanks for our precious little blessing, Alicia Joy, and pray for her continued health and development. Please also pray that we would have wisdom, patience and grace as we seek God's guidance in raising her.

Since our last update, David has had the opportunity to lead the church community choir once again during our Easter services, following the Advent choir we shared about previously. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Jesus' resurrection together.

After David returned to work following paternity leave, he helped plan and lead the sung worship for our church anniversary service, which took place in a large public park on 26 July.

David is also taking on greater responsibility for discipling the worship band directors. In our church context here in Latin America, this role is particularly important. The influence of some megachurches and prosperity gospel teaching can sometimes contribute to a culture where pastors and worship leaders are elevated as

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public figures or influencers. Because of this, it is vital that those serving in leadership are intentionally disciplined and encouraged to remain centred on the gospel.

David also continues to walk alongside church members who are exploring opportunities to serve in the worship ministry, coordinating the worship bands and multimedia teams while preparing the liturgy each week.

Please pray for David, asking God to give him wisdom, humility and guidance as he continues to serve both God and others through the worship ministry at our local church.

Before Alicia's arrival, Azaria was able to form a team of volunteers from within the group of mentors to continue and develop several areas of her work. She was able to leave a talented and capable team in place to serve the mentoring community and coordinate the group activities.

After the team's first activity, it was such an encouragement to hear that everything had gone really well. We were told the volunteers did a fantastic job and that Azaria should be proud of all God had accomplished through her work over the past two years, preparing others to continue this ministry. Praise God! It is so encouraging to see the mentoring community continuing to thrive even in her absence.

It has been a real privilege for Azaria to work alongside the mentors as they support vulnerable children and young people across Guatemala City through healthy, consistent relationships with adults. It has also been exciting to see God bring together volunteers from several different churches to strengthen and support this mentoring ministry.

It is also a tremendous blessing that, in this season, Azaria is able to give Alicia her full attention. We know not every family has this opportunity, and we truly see it as a gift.

Please pray for the mentors and the new volunteer team as they continue serving vulnerable children and young people. Please also pray for Azaria as she embraces this season of caring for Alicia.

Some of you may remember that we have recently been connecting with a new ministry, discerning how we might become involved and support them in the months ahead. The ministry, Casa de Gracia (House of Grace), seeks to provide a safe and supportive home for young adults leaving children's homes who have no family to return to.

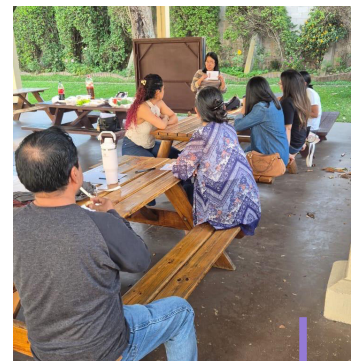
The first house is almost complete and they hope to welcome their first young women later this year. Their vision is to provide a full discipleship programme, mentoring and tailored life plans to help each young person transition into independent adulthood.

We continue to seek God's guidance about how we might best support this incredible ministry as it offers young people not only practical help, but also family, belonging and hope.

Please pray for Casa de Gracia as they prepare to welcome their first residents later this year. Please also pray for wisdom and discernment as we continue seeking God's guidance about how we can best serve alongside this ministry.

Thank you so much for your continued love, prayers and support.

Love and blessings, David, Azaria and Alicia x



Photos from top to bottom: Azaria, Janet (Azaria's mum), Alicia and David; David leading the choir and sung worship on Easter Sunday; Josué (David's brother), Yoli (David's mum), Filiberto (David's dad), Anaí (David's sister-in-law), Azaria, Alicia and David; the mentoring community activity led by the new volunteers



Discovering creative ways to share the hope of Jesus

We love to hear from other CMS partners sharing the hope of Jesus with people not yet connected to church. Read Andy Roberts's reflection on his time with the charity ReVive in Brazil and hear his thoughts on how mission needs to keep creatively changing. And be challenged by a thought-provoking piece on the role of migration in mission. Read and learn more about creative mission at churchmissionsociety.org/bringhope

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