



August 2023

Dear Praying Partners,

We pray that this letter finds you all doing well. Our summer has been filled with many changes and wonderful blessings from the Lord. Sometimes we do not always understand why God allows certain things to happen, but He always reminds us "...so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

Since our last letter, I have traveled to both Cuba and Mexico. Although my trip to Cuba was a quick one, I was able to address many issues that we had been presented with in regards to the ministry training center. I was able to meet with the board of pastors who run Cristo Centro, and I began to realize the need for more organization. We were able to sit down and discuss many problem areas. It was a very beneficial trip. I was also able to encourage our brothers and sisters in Christ through teaching and great fellowship. I am planning to visit Cuba again in the near future with a group of qualified men to help these Cuban pastors understand how to more effectively lead this growing ministry.

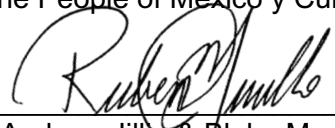
I was especially excited to return to Mexico with Andrea by my side. This was the first time in quite a while that Andrea was able to travel with me due to her mother's health. Although my mother-in-law is still battling cancer, God gave us a wonderful blessing in allowing her to take three of her treatments right here in SC instead of traveling to Houston. Therefore, Andrea was able to travel to Mexico with me to watch our children's ministry director, Omar, get married. We packed as much as we could in a short period of time. We were able to visit with two of our pastors and their families, and I was able to preach in two different churches. We were also able to spend some time with Omar and his new bride, Viviana. They were so excited to share the many ideas they have for expanding our children's ministry. Vida Kids has ministered all over Mexico, Cuba, and Colombia. They recently finished helping with several vacation Bible school programs, and they hope to start training more adults to lead children's ministries throughout Latin America.

Our four churches in Mexico are doing well. They are well established and are now self-supporting. Our children's ministry is thriving and has a bright future. Although Vida Kids has raised some of its own support, we do still support this ministry a great deal as it is not your typical church planting ministry that many Mexican churches desire to invest their already limited funds in. The churches in Cuba continue to stand up in the face of constant adversity. We are blessed to be able to invest in these pastors and their churches through monetary giving as well as through teaching and encouragement. Our Spanish church here in the USA has been through many ups and downs including the flooding of our building. The building is now fixed, but it is also up for sale. We are not in the position to purchase that building at the moment. Therefore, we have begun meeting in homes on Sunday evenings. We are praying that the Lord will help us to grow in number as well as in maturity.

As a family, we are constantly changing and growing. Jillian is now a junior in high school and Blake is an eighth grader. They both love the Lord, and we pray that they continue to seek His will in their lives. The past two years have been filled with twists and turns as we were often having to live life apart from each other as Andrea cared for her mother who was constantly traveling back and forth from Texas. Andrea's mom will have more scans at the beginning of September. We are not sure what's next, but we know that God is in control. As a result of these many twists and turns, we have realized that our ministry is going to look different from here on out. Our ministry will be focused on making constant trips to Mexico, Cuba, Colombia, and hopefully many other Spanish speaking countries to focus on training pastors and leaders

and hold leadership, youth, and children's conferences. We already have plans for a young adult's conference in October in Mexico. Please pray specifically for our Spanish church here in SC.

For the People of Mexico y Cuba,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ruben Murillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

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Ruben Jr, Andrea, Jillic & Blake Murillo