

Mark & Brenda Hall

Guadalajara, Mexico

August 2021

We thank God for His faithfulness. Despite all the current difficulties, He has kept us healthy and called us to minister to people who really need Christian fellowship at a time like this. What strange days we live in: the health experts do not want us to sing or to hug each other at church. We are even supposed to cover our smiles! But we are doing our best to encourage each other and keep hope alive. Many of our people don't speak Spanish and would be isolated in this great city if it weren't for our Sunday gatherings. We have a large building for a modest congregation, which allows us to be together safely. We open all the windows and doors, turn on numerous fans, and manage to sing and receive a blessing from the Word of God.

During July, schools have been on vacation and Mexico has seen a large increase in cases. So, in August we are back to obeying stricter rules. The goal is to ensure that in-person classes can begin when schools resume. In our family, the next few weeks mark some milestones. Our little boy is not little anymore. He turns 12 on August 11. Then Gabriela turns 18 on September 1. That same day, Brenda and I celebrate 20 years of marriage. Allow me to brag about our kids for a moment.

Gabriela has really prospered here in Guadalajara. At first, she struggled adapting at school but now she understands the system well and has found her stride. She just finished 11th grade tied for first place, with straight A's! Even more important, she has grown a lot in confidence and happiness and has made many new friends. Of course, Gaby's English and Spanish are perfect. In addition, she is studying French and German!





Kelsey is enjoying life in Mexico. So far, he has not been as serious about studies as his sister. But he is sharp and learns quickly. He really disliked doing school from home. It will be great for him to get to return. Recently at his sister's awards ceremony, he was very impressed by all the kids who work so hard to get good grades in high school. He told us that he is going to do really well next year. (Last month, he graduated from 6th grade.) In other areas of life, he enjoys playing basketball and exercising. And he dedicates a significant amount of time to teasing his sister. He is a real pro at that! For Brenda and me, it has been more work, but also a lot of fun, to have had them home with us this past year and a half.

How to pray for us:

- ✓ Only recently have we begun to see new visitors at church. Pray that God will help English Fellowship grow. We especially hope to reach more young people.
- ✓ We are praying that all students be able to return to in-person classes this month. Thousands of university students might be able to return to the city.
- ✓ Thank God that He has kept us healthy. Pray that we will have the strength and wisdom to serve Him well.
- ✓ Pray for my work writing and teaching. Since the pandemic started, I have written and delivered over 60 sermons. I feel it has gone well but sometimes these days it is a struggle to concentrate and find the right words.

We are very thankful for your prayers. God is good!

En el amor de Cristo,

Mark

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