



# the **ETHAN SHIELDS** family

October 2023

Third generation missionaries assisting the indigenous church planting effort in Panama

It's been almost four months since someone totaled our family van and we just received the check from the insurance company about a week ago. We are so thankful to be done with all that. After multiple attempts to buy a vehicle, it seems the one we are currently looking at will work out. **PRAY** it will happen soon since our work truck has started to fall apart. Several warning lights are lit up on the dash and oil just starting leaking from somewhere.

Despite all the vehicle drama, God has been incredibly blessing the ministry. The last week of August, a group from Providence BC in FL came down on a missions trip. **They traveled up into the mountains to the church in Llano Tebujo and handed out water filters, built benches, and doubled the size of the church roof.** They held special services each night with around 100 people in attendance. What a blessing for this pastor and his church!

The day after they left, a group from OK arrived to help teach in the local public school as part of Month of the Bible. We taught three days of lessons to around **600 kids ages K4-6th grade and gave Bibles to each of them.** Praise the Lord, **six students Ethan taught made professions of faith, plus a few more in other classes!**

We also held special evangelistic services each night after teaching and had multiple visitors. The first night, **a father and son accepted**

**Christ!** Then the second night, back in the kids' class, **Beth and the pastor's wife led four children to the Lord!** Praise God!

The program in the public school was such a success that the school director invited our church back at the end of the month to teach the older students too! Our team of missionaries took some members from our church and invited pastors and leaders from three other churches to join us. **Around 800 students in 7th-12th grades received a Bible** and two days of lessons. **33 students made professions of faith (21 of them were in Ethan's classes)!** These were kids from every grade level we taught and each of them were given contact information for the church. The pastor's wife already has discipleship materials ready for them. **PRAY** for these young people to grow in the Lord and to become faithful to church.

