



the ETHAN SHIELDS family

April 2023

Third generation missionaries assisting the indigenous church planting effort in Panama

THANK YOU all for praying for the runway inspection. They gave us a 75% positive answer! That simply means we have some modifications to make to the runway before they will give final approval. The officials were excited about the impact our project will have in our area and are doing everything they can to push this through. We have to change the size of the runway, modify the angle of the sides, and install various airstrip accessories.

We must purchase a tractor to do some of this work and also to maintain the runway. We had been keeping the jungle at bay by utilizing cattle, but they had to be removed due to the ruts and droppings they left behind. We always knew cattle wasn't a long term solution, but God hadn't provided the funds for a tractor yet. Now that the runway legalization process has started, we must get a tractor ASAP. The used tractor we had planned to buy sold, but thankfully we found a new one that is similar and slightly larger for not much more money.

Praise the Lord for our sending church and two others who are sending a total of \$12,000 towards the tractor and runway modifications! A few other churches mentioned sending some funds to help as well and we are praying for God to provide the remaining \$24,000 soon so we can get to work before rainy season comes.



Ministry for our team during these summer months always seems non-stop. **We praise God for the THREE people who got saved at New Hope in San Félix!** Then during Holy Week we got to preach Jesus to around 400 students plus their teachers in a public school outreach.

Our team has also hosted multiple missions trips over the last two months- the most special one being the return of our coworkers, Randal and Annie Cox from NC. They stayed for over a month holding special meetings and outreaches, which our family (including our oldest daughter, Elena) helped translate for. Randal ended up in the hospital for emergency surgery, but the Lord spared him.

A group from Costa Rica held a VBS along with special services at night in Sabana Grande and saw **FOUR people saved!**

A group of university students from Mexico just finished ministering in 12 different villages. They rotated between churches teaching and preaching for three weeks. The local pastors and their people expressed deep gratitude for the classes and the fellowship.

