



# the ETHAN SHIELDS family

December 2023

Third generation missionaries assisting the indigenous church planting effort in Panama

## MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY!

For every dollar we raise, an anonymous donor is willing to match funds up to \$30,000! **THE DEADLINE IS THE END OF FEBRUARY.** If we raise it all, this will give us \$60,000 to add to the money we already have raised so we can finish construction on the aviation ministry in its entirety! See page two for donation information and the full story with all the exciting details.



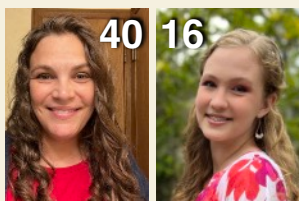
Panama has been immersed in nationwide protesting that has gone on since October 21 against a mining contract signed into law by the President. Our province has been the most affected and has been totally shut down in different areas due to road blockades and marches. Our town has only one entrance/exit so the blockades cut us off entirely. The longer this goes on, the more the situation devolves into violence and vandalism. On November 28, the Supreme Court of Justice declared the mining contract

unconstitutional. This alleviated protesting in most of the country, however, the blockades are still going on in our province. We have supplies and are fine, but our friends can't go to work or school and there have been shortages of fuel, food, and cooking propane.

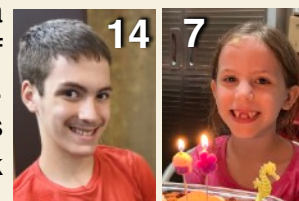
Protestors are literally camping out on the highway and keep changing their demands as to what will make them leave. Sometimes, one group leaves and another group blocks the road. Anyone trying to remove the blockades is beaten and police are warned to stay away or else. As of today (December 1), they this will end soon, but so far it's been SIX FULL WEEKS with only a few openings of 12-24 hours.

Our church is on the north side of the highway and only people from that area have been able to attend. The rest of us on the south side have been meeting in the home of one of the widows instead. 30 people walk or ride bikes to congregate and worship God. We have a service (with kids class) on Sundays, youth group at our house on Saturdays, and are starting a mid-week Bible study soon. Even after the protesting ends, we plan to continue the Bible study with this small group. Please **pray** for wisdom as it seems this may be the beginning of a new church plant, but there are some things to work through first.

**TEN PEOPLE have made professions of faith since our last newsletter.** Two of these are the parents of some of our SS kids and we have been praying fervently for them for years! Since they live nearby, we were already able to start discipling them. **Pray** for Miguel and Maribel as they continue to grow spiritually.



On the family front, Beth, Elena, and Julia all celebrated a birthday in the last few months and Noah has one in a couple of weeks. We are thankful for God giving them another year of life. We are also thankful we were able to replace the van that was totaled back in June and able to sell and replace the failing work truck. What a blessing to have two reliable vehicles again!





December 2023

# the ETHAN SHIELDS family

Third generation missionaries assisting the indigenous church planting effort in Panama

→ **MATCHING FUNDS OPPORTUNITY!** ←

For every dollar we raise, an anonymous donor is willing to match funds up to \$30,000!  
**THE DEADLINE IS THE END OF FEBRUARY.** If we raise it all, this will give us \$60,000 to add to the money we already have raised so we can finish construction on the aviation ministry in its entirety!

An anonymous donor reached out to us about doing a matching funds program. They asked what it would take for us to fully finish the aviation ministry. We were encouraged to not just build a hangar based on what was most economical, but instead to think of the future and what we really need. After much prayer and counsel, we came up with a new, improved plan.

The original plan we budgeted for had simply been a hangar that was four walls with a big door for the plane to get through. However, the new hangar expands the size of the building to include an office, a bathroom, space for tools and storage, and most importantly- room to store and do maintenance on the tractor God recently gave us. There is a small bridge that needs built to connect the aviation property to the main road. We also included all the other unseen costs of installing power & water, building permits, environmental study, and professional services (architect, inspectors, lawyer, topographer, etc).

We already have some money raised that we are using to do what we can. Once the rainy season ends and the ground dries up (around January), we will do the runway modifications and start construction. We have some groups lined up to come help us already too. A group from Michigan plans to come in February to build the bridge. Rainy season begins again in May. This gives us several months to complete construction if we raise all the funds.

This has been our goal for a long time. God had been answering our prayers saying “wait” and taught us a lot about patience. But now we are getting all green lights! Praise the Lord for HIS timing and HIS ways that are higher than ours!

→ Here is a video about the matching funds program to share with your church: <https://www.facebook.com/ethanandbethshields/videos/868201684768490> ←

### Donation information

All giving is through our mission board and each gift receives a tax deductible receipt.

Give ONLINE: <https://secure.anedot.com/all-points-baptist-mission/shieldsrunway>

Give by CHECK:

All Points Baptist Mission  
PO Box 977  
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Please make checks out to  
“All Points Baptist Mission” with  
“Ethan Shields- matching funds”  
in the memo