



# the **ETHAN SHIELDS** family

June 2023

Third generation missionaries assisting the indigenous church planting effort in Panama

A group from a supporting church in Texas just left after spending a week with us working. **Heritage Baptist Church** (Pastor Seth Buckner) was a great blessing! They built benches for the church in Tugr  and then built benches and expanded the roof for the church in R o Fonseca. Pastor Buckner preached special services in both places, plus the 9th anniversary celebration for New Hope Baptist Church in San F elix.



Thanks to donations from a few generous individuals, we have funds to build/improve churches in the comarca. Indigenous church members in multiple locations have been saving for years to purchase materials. The men, women, and children have also done extensive physical labor by hand to get to where they are. We are thankful to be able to come alongside and help these faithful pastors and their congregations. The church in R o Fonseca will get a concrete floor. The church in Trinchera has already begun replacing their building that was literally falling apart. Several more churches will be able to benefit from these funds as well.

Multiple organizations have recently donated items that we have been giving out; Shoes that Grow, reading glasses, and BEAMS Bibles. Also, a group sent funds to purchase 1500 Bibles for a public school outreach planned to take place in September during "Month of the Bible".

Ethan went to the USA in May for a quick trip to do his biannual flight review and medical exam in order to keep his pilot's license current. Many thanks to our missionary friend Jonathan Latham for keeping our airplane safe for us, helping with the maintenance, and donating flight instructor hours. It was wonderful to see some family and friends and also to visit a few churches, especially our sending church, Ben's Ford. **Praise the Lord for a new supporter partnering with us- Leon Valley Baptist Church in San Antonio, TX!** God is moving in a mighty way here in Panama and we are thankful to have such a wonderful network of supporters behind us who will also reap the heavenly rewards.

On the family front, we are waiting on several things. A truck ran a stop sign and crashed into our family van. No one is hurt thankfully! It's been almost a month now since that happened and we still have no word from the insurance as to whether or not the van is totaled. Also, our initial house blueprints came in from the architect. Now we are waiting to get the electrical and plumbing plans. While we wait we have been trying to get electricity connected to the property.

As for the runway modifications and the tractor- God is providing in miraculous ways and we can't wait to be able to share the full story!

