



www.missionsbeyond.com

# the ETHAN SHIELDS family

September 2022

Third generation missionaries assisting the indigenous church planting effort in Panama

We want to share an answer to prayer first! Our friend, Marco, was born in Venezuela to Italian immigrants who raised him in the Jehovah's Witnesses religion. He married Mari who is Catholic and they moved their family to Panama not long before we moved here. Over the last six years, we have befriended them and witnessed to them. A few weeks ago, **Marco asked God to forgive his sins and then asked Ethan to baptize him!** Now Ethan, Marco, and a third man all get together on Tuesday mornings for a Bible Study. Please **pray** for Mari. She acknowledges her husband has changed completely and we feel she is close to getting saved as well. They currently have plans to move out of country since they are struggling economically. **Pray** also for wisdom and provision for them.



Our coworker, Danny, has a Bible study in the village of Oma. Ethan is leading this for the next month or so on Wednesday nights while Danny is away. Before he left, Ethan went with him to the Bible study to meet the people. That night **they led EIGHT young people to the Lord!** Each of these new believers received a free Bible from the BEAMS ministry.



Ethan is taking over the responsibilities of assistant pastor and youth director at New Hope Baptist Church in San Félix. There have been so many people coming we divided into new Sunday School classes- three kids classes, youth, men, older women, and younger women. We simply don't have enough space! It has also become difficult to do bus routes to pick up people for church since we and our coworkers just use our own vehicles. Please pray with us about logistics and larger vehicles.



As we see this church grow, we also are planning for the future. If the Lord allows, our 3-5 plan is to legally organize New Hope, train the people well, and then have part of the congregation help us plant a new church in the nearby town of Las Lajas. We currently bring people from several small communities around New Hope and many of them come from the Las Lajas area. This is an ideal plan in many ways, but we want to be sure it is God's plan. Pray for wisdom, maturity, and provision.