

Sabbatical plans, Feb 2019

Family and ministry

We had a blessed finish to 2018. Our daughter Alexandra came down with Dave's parents for Christmas. Our son Daniel got a local job while he continues searching in his field of digital animation. He also celebrated his 24th birthday in January. Blanca's mother joined us for a week in January, too.

After a brief Christmas hiatus, Blanca's kids club, youth club and music classes started back up again. On the first Saturday back, the Lord sent us a batch of ten new children to the kids club! Blanca also taught a one-time evangelistic cooking class. She had ten pupils, including five new people.

I (Dave) have the semester off from teaching at the seminary. But I have been working harder than ever, organizing many details, so that the people taking over for me during my sabbatical will not have to take on too much.

Sabbatical

My sabbatical dates are from **February 18 to June 9**. The sabbatical is a paid leave of absence from the mission so that I can dedicate time to the three R's: reading, writing, and Blanca. (I need to work on my spelling). The Spanish materials I write always get last priority because of my other responsibilities, so I can't wait to get to a number of these sidelined projects that I enjoy and feel called to. Maybe my mural will get done, too!

The original plan was six months in Grand Rapids going every day to the Hekman library at Calvin College to study. But the pressures of my work year made that difficult, so we reduced it to just under 4 months. And the financial reality of having a daughter in college made a Grand Rapids sabbatical

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difficult, too (after finding a house to rent and a car to drive). So we are staying in our home in Mexico City. I will study at the university libraries nearby, and we will make a few short trips to our favorite towns in central Mexico. (We also plan to visit family briefly in Grand Rapids during vacation time at the end of the sabbatical). Thanks be to the Lord for all these graces. In June we will let you know how it all went!

Blanca plans to continue helping the church volunteers with the children and youth ministries on most Saturdays.

Support and prayer

We are currently at 63% support, and still need to get to 100% by the end of June. Resonate still provides salary and benefits for us during our sabbatical. But we will not be sending out a prayer letter or doing support raising during this time. ***So we are trusting in the Lord and in our supporters to provide what remains to be raised.***

And please don't stop praying for us, either! We always depend on the Lord, as he answers your prayers for us, for our family, for our friends in Mexico, and for the ministries being carried out here.

Thank you all again for your prayers, financial support, word-of-mouth, and encouragement! – Dave and Blanca