



Endings and Beginnings

January is ending, and it's time for a note from your missionaries to Mexico City. Our year began with some endings:

Ending #1: The Late, Great Super-Lizard

Many of you know that our son Daniel (10) lost his foot-long Water Dragon "Super-Lizard" in July for two months. Daniel was in the backyard with him (her?), and he got away. After a cold August, we figured Daniel's pet was history. But Daniel was convinced that he would turn up. Amazingly, Super-Lizard plopped into the basement window well near the end of September. I (Dave) happened to be in my office, had the window open, and heard him fall in. What a miraculous comeback!



Unfortunately, two days after Christmas, Super-Lizard passed away. The stress from being ill in December and from moving to Dave's parents' house was too much for him. You might think we are crazy, but we all got attached to him. Even though his absence will make border crossing much easier, we will still miss him very much!

Ending #2: Moving Out

In January we had our moving sale and vacated our apartment. Praise the Lord for a successful sale, and that our 4x8 trailer arrived on time! We couldn't have done it without the tremendous hospitality and babysitting help of "Mama and Papa" (Dave's parents). Thank you!

Ending #3: Heading for Mexico

On **March 1st** we plan to end our time here in Grand Rapids and drive to Mexico City. Between now and then a lot needs to happen:

- Dave has his classical exam on February 17, and if he sustains, will be ordained on February 27. The service is at Ridgewood CRC in Jenison, MI at 5pm, and there will be a reception following. You are cordially invited!
- We are visiting several churches during our remaining Sundays, from Iowa to Florida.
- We are currently at **90% pledged support** (Yay! Thank you!) and hope to raise another \$463/month in support pledges before we leave. Perhaps you or someone you know would like to partner with us and our ministry. Please contact us at our number or e-mail address above.
- Dave needs to prepare his two New Testament courses in Spanish. He will begin teaching about a week after we arrive.
- We need to say goodbye to family and friends. This will be the toughest ending of all, especially for Daniel and Alexandra. *(over)*

Beginnings

But after the endings, there will be many beginnings for us:

- Travel to a new place: only Dave has been to Mexico previously. Our drive down will take about a week.
- The search for a new home and new friends
- A new language and a new home school regimen for Daniel and Alexandra
- Registering the kids at a bilingual school for the fall
- The beginnings of a new ministry with all of its joys and challenges

A Request for Prayer

We have seen the Lord provide and care for us in special ways in the last few months, and we know that many of you are praying for us. If you have read this far, you can see that we are going to need a generous helping of prayer support over the next few months. Please use the two bulleted lists above as a prayer guide as you pray for us.

And please feel free to write us with your prayer requests as well. We are all in this together, and even though we are far away, we want to keep in touch with you and be a part of your lives.

Lord willing, our next prayer letter will come to you from Mexico City. God bless each and every one of you. In Christ,

*Dave, Blanca,
Daniel & Alexandra*