Ingrid Roldán-Román, Panamá

Ingrid works with the social extension of the Centro Teológico Bautista del Caribe Panameño (Baptist Theological Center of the Panamanian Caribbean) in the community of Changuinola, Bocas del Toro, Panamá. She directs a program in her home to tutor and feed elementary and high school students, many of whom come from a nearby slum. She works with the students and their relatives in evangelism, social development, and pastoral care.

Azael Lucas is one of our students in sixth grade. He lives in a wood and bamboo house with no running or drinking water, nor does it have electricity. Azael sleeps on a mat on the dirt floor. He is a student who, despite his poverty, is very dedicated and always wants to get good grades. One day, after he’d missed the tutoring program, I asked him why. He replied, “My shoes fell apart.” His school requires a uniform and shoes—without shoes, he is unable to attend the school. My economic situation was not very good, but I said, “This afternoon we will buy you shoes.” We went to town and, as we walked down the street, a person touched me on the shoulder. I turned around and saw a man I knew. He said, “Missionary, I want to give you this $20 to use for something that your students need.” I looked at Azael and said, “God just provided you with shoes.” We told the man that Azael needed new school shoes, and that his donation would be used at just that moment. I think that miraculous gesture strengthened Azael’s faith.

Ingrid Roldán-Román | IM Global Servant for Discipleship, Education, Health & Wellness

SEEING GOD’S PROVISION

Denise and Juan serve in partnership with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico (CICEM) in Chiapas. They work in training, prevention, and education as they learn local needs and look for ways to empower community leaders emotionally and economically. Juan focuses on theological education and leadership training as he accompanies and disciples new church leaders. Denise seeks to empower women, especially victims of domestic abuse.

Denise & Juan Aragón | IM Global Servants for Theological Education, Peace & Justice, Education

SEEING GOD WORK THROUGH RELATIONSHIPS

Before we relocated to Mexico, several friends, colleagues, and mentors suggested that, rather than rushing into “ministry work,” we should not underestimate the power of building relationships, especially in our first term of service.

In many conversations over meals, cooking tortillas, doing dishes, playing with the children, celebrating baptisms, a wedding, birthdays, the birth of a child, and mourning with them during the death of a baby, we’ve sought to do this. We learned basic Tsotsil and Tseltal phrases to show our appreciation and respect, and made the effort to travel and visit our ministry partners as a family even while we were helping our children adjust to life in Mexico.

When we first responded to God’s call to serve with our partners in Chiapas, little did we imagine the impact of investing in relationships. When Juan was diagnosed with a rare condition in May 2019, our Tsotsil and Tseltal sisters and brothers held us up in prayer and encouraged our family. It humbled us as, in the midst of their financial scarcity, they raised love offerings for his medical expenses. We’ve experienced the fruit of nurturing relationships; we trust the Lord will use these relationships to transform lives for his glory.

Denise & Juan Aragón | IM Global Servants for Discipleship, Education, Health & Wellness

JOIN US IN PRAYING

• For the School Tutoring Program and its students.
• For new missionaries to the area after Ingrid retires this December.

JOIN US BY GIVING to the World Mission Offering through your church or online at www.worldmissionoffering.org. Thank you!