

## GONZÁLEZ-BARNES



# Mercy González-Barnes

## IBEROAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### LANGUAGES

Spanish  
English

### MINISTRY PRIORITY

Theological Education

### BIRTHDAY

9/23



### LOCATION

Iberoamerica and the Caribbean



### ABOUT

After 13 years of teaching, mentoring, and walking alongside men and women in Mexicali, Mexico, Mercy is now responding to the same concerns that she addressed in Mexico in the wider Latin American context in her new role as an International Ministries regional consultant.

She will also be part of a team that will come alongside the ministry of Cuban Baptists.

“I am responding to this new call with excitement,” says Mercy. “I am being stretched as I discover the diverse needs of our Latin American partners. This is also an exciting time of change in Cuba, and in that spirit I ask for your continued support of this ministry.”



The table is a sacred reminder that we are in God's presence.



### MINISTRY STORY

I walk into the room to prepare it for the new students. The tables and chairs form a rectangle, with a place for worship in the center. I put a candle and anointing oil on the table, symbols of God's presence in our midst. I wait for the students and greet them as they enter, searching in their faces for signs of nervous anticipation and excitement at the new journey on which they are embarking.

This is what happens when a new cohort begins, be it Mexico, Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, or the Latino community in the United States. We form a beloved community of learning. There is singing, prayer, and the beginning of new relationships and new challenges.

These communities form part of the Great Cloud of Witnesses mentioned in Hebrews. They are leaders, pastors, and teachers who want to be used by God to share the good news and make

a difference. They are running the race; they are persevering and, like us, they are looking to Jesus so as not to grow weary and lose heart.

Our students are involved in many important ministries. They are equipping the leaders of indigenous communities. They are supporting women in domestic abuse. They are supporting immigrants, feeding the hungry, and serving the least of these through education, community centers, and health care.

Please run the race with me; pass me the baton or some water through your prayers and financial support, and rejoice at the new thing that God is doing through the community of faith.

### PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for our students; for partners that are called to support this ministry; for my children in Virginia, New York, and Japan; and for my husband and me as we strive to be faithful to God's call.

### SCRIPTURE

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.”*

Hebrews 12:1—2a (NIV)