

Montoya Minutes - March 2025



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings in the name of our faithful Father! We want to share an update with you so that you may know how important your prayers are!

The new Seminary year began earlier than ever this year, right after the holidays. We have 13 new students! We pray that the seminary will be greatly used of God to build His church by the sound teaching of His Word. Please pray for the leaders, the professors, and the students to have wisdom to walk humbly with God in holiness, with right and righteous priorities! And that the wives and children and churches represented by these men will also yield fruit for God's glory! May God's Christ be magnified as God's Word is proclaimed!

There is a new seminary expansion endeavor this year in Cuba! We ask your prayers for God's will in this effort. There are men there eager to be trained to teach and preach the Word of God. Two of our national professors from SEPE Honduras were denied the necessary religious visas to enter Cuba in February and March. Carlos is the third professor on the line up scheduled to travel there the end of April for about 10 days to teach a module and a conference. We don't yet know if he will have success in receiving a religious visa. We don't know if having an American passport might help, as well as the fact that he has been there twice previously. Please pray for God's will in this matter. We do know that God's plan is to raise up people from every nation to worship the Lamb! (Revelation 7:9).

We rejoice in God's great faithfulness in our church, which is His church! He is yielding a fruitful harvest! We long to be found as faithful workers in His fields! (Matthew 9:35-38). We are so convinced that our labor is not in vain. (1 Corinthians 15:58). This brings unspeakable joy! Please pray that the Lord will help us walk wisely in a manner worthy of the calling we have

Please pray for Carlos as he humbly seeks to be further equipped in the future years... he has been invited to participate in a pilot pastoral training program on a doctoral level through The Expositors Seminary in Jupiter, Florida. It is with a combination of fear and trembling, as well as great eagerness to be sharpened for God's usefulness, that he has accepted the invitation to participate in this three-year course of study. It will be predominantly online, with some modules on site at Grace Immanuel Bible Church. We are overwhelmed about this endeavor, but we are reminded of the wise counsel we were given as we felt overwhelmed by homeschooling our seven children...the advice we received was, "Good! You should feel overwhelmed, because the only way to do it is by daily dependence on the Lord!"

We rejoice in sharing with you that we have two grandchildren on the way! ... no, not twins! Marcy and Ryan are expecting a baby boy the end of July! PTL! Thank you for praying for them after their miscarriage last fall. And Leslie and Luke are expecting their second child the beginning of September! PTL! Please pray for God's protection of these precious little ones! We rejoice over God's gracious gift of grandchildren! It has been interesting to really notice verses in God's Word about grandparents and grandchildren! Truly it is a tremendous ministry opportunity!

Most of the month of February, Carlos and I found ourselves in the United States. Carlos attended The Courageous Churchmen conference along with 8 men from our church! This was a rich time of spiritual encouragement! Also, Carlos had the privilege to preach for the Miami Bible Church Mission Conference! This was a sweet time with the believers there, as well as with Jeremy and Andrea and Leandro!





Carlos preaching at Mission Conference

The rest of our time we were involved in caring for my precious parents. Their health challenges and the need for a team of 24-hour caregivers necessitated moving them from their home of 60 years to an assisted living facility. This was an emotional experience for our entire family, and yet we have experienced God working in profound ways to help us. We were able to move them to a place half a mile away from their house and from my brother and his wife. Overall, this transition has gone smoothly and has been helpful. My dad had hip replacement surgery on Wednesday, March 19, so I traveled to NC to try to provide support during this process. We are so thankful to the Lord that the surgery went well. My dad was hospitalized only one night and then was able to be with my mom again! He is receiving physical therapy at the assisted living facility.



Mama and Daddy Swaim

our four Zelaya grandchildren as Edwin and Kimberly lead a ministry team from our church to serve for a week in Colombia! This trip will be our church's first ministry trip beyond the borders of Honduras! The team will be visiting and serving alongside of our church's very first missionary! Yes, we are excited as a church to be supporting our first missionary... a SEPE graduate who is Colombian! He was part of our church during his four years of seminary study, and then for an additional year as a pastoral intern. He returned to serve the Lord in His country and now our church has the privilege to help support him as our first missionary! Edwin and Kimberly are traveling with four other couples from our church to conduct a marriage conference and a vacation Bible school!



Colombia Mission Team

As I mentioned at the beginning of this letter... this update is so that you might know how important your prayers are! We need your prayers! Thank you for upholding us!

I'm sure our lives in many ways are similar to yours, just different geographic locations! How can we uphold you in prayer? We love you and we give thanks to the Lord for you!

We are so grateful for the Lord's lovingkindness! Great is His faithfulness! His mercies are new every morning! His grace is sufficient!

Learning to trust Him more,

Lori, for Carlos and our family

Pray for the MONTOYAS



TRAINING PASTORS, STRENGTHENING CHURCHES

For more than 20 years, the Montoyas have served the Lord in the country of Honduras. Carlos is the President of *MEDA* in the city of Siguatepeque, a ministry that serves all Latin America, offering an M. Div. degree through the *Seminary for Expository Preaching* (SEPE).

He is also an elder at *Betania Baptist Church*, preaching and teaching regularly. Lori cares for the family and serves in hospitality and ministries with women and children. Carlos and Lori have 7 children, 2 still at home (Sara and Abi) and 6 grandchildren.

Above all, we desire your faithful prayers, but if you would like to contribute to our ministry either by a one-time gift or monthly support, please send checks designated:

"Montoya Ministry in Honduras"
to:
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