

THE GORDONS

MISSIONARIES TO PANAMA WITH



"For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." 2Cor 4:5-6



What is our story?

By God's sustaining grace, we have served as missionaries to Panama for over a decade and in ministry for 15 years. We are missionaries with Sport X Change, a parachurch organization which sends out short-term mission teams to partner and serve across various denominations for Christ's Church and His kingdom. We train up and equip our short-term teams to share the hope of the gospel and come alongside the local church for His glory. Through the use of sports and other innovative platforms, God has allowed us to break down cultural barriers and connect with people, opening doors to share the gospel and point people to the only source of true, lasting change, Jesus Christ. Our heartbeat as ambassadors of Christ is to see the Word of God awaken hearts through His Spirit and to walk alongside people in their growth and discipleship. God has allowed us to gain access to hard to reach places and see the light of the Gospel move in indigenous tribes, juvenile jails, refugee communities, schools, sports teams and a special needs orphanage.



In 2013, God led us to help plant and grow Iglesia Comunidad de Cristo, a church plant in the heart of Panama City, where we have served in community outreach, music ministry, discipleship, preaching and teaching over the years. We also led the formation and growth of an indigenous church planting effort in the Embera village, "La Reserva," located in the Darien jungle. This ministry is now under the care of Iglesia Comunidad de Cristo.

Who are we?

John & Aimee

Leia, Clara, Micah, Makayla



What is our mission?

To proclaim Christ in Panama by...

EVANGELIZING

EQUIPPING

ENCOURAGING



"to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ"

Ephesians 4:12-13

EVANGELIZE

To reach the people of Panama, there is a tremendous need for proclaiming Christ with the true gospel. In a country of 4.4 million people, 21% claim to be “evangelical” Christians. Many say that the country has been evangelized, but that is far from the truth. Of the 21%, the majority do not have a biblical understanding of the gospel, largely due to a false prosperity and works based gospel, which is prevalent in the Latin American church. Pastor Nuñez writes, “Latin America needs to be re-evangelized because it has been inoculated with the wrong message: therefore people have developed ‘antibodies’ to the real gospel.” Seeing this first hand in Panama, we have a calling to share the truth of the gospel of grace in a land plagued by false teaching.



EQUIP

After serving as missionaries to Panama for over a decade, we have seen a great need for proclaiming Christ by equipping the saints for the work of the ministry through good, sound teaching/doctrine, discipleship and resources. There are many churches with poorly equipped pastors and leaders who lack a clear understanding of what the Scriptures teach. God has called us to help equip these saints for the work of the ministry by growing a discipleship and leadership theological training program, walking alongside local church leaders and church pastors, training and equipping them to study and see the Word of God through a gospel, Christ-centered lens. Our goal is to raise up trained and equipped national and indigenous church leaders and pastors to advance His kingdom in Panama.



3 ENCOURAGE

During our time living and serving in Panama, we have also seen the need for proclaiming Christ through the building up of the body of Christ, as many churches & pastors are in impoverished states, barely hanging on and in difficult, hard to reach areas. They are in need of care, encouragement and resources. God has called us to be ambassadors of Christ and gospel partners in helping meet both physical and spiritual needs. We proclaim Christ through our mutual love for these churches in need around us. Jesus says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:35 As we build up and encourage the greater body of Christ in Panama, we show the world who the true source of love is and who to put their trust in, Jesus Christ.



How have we served over the past 15 years?

- Started and developed a discipleship and leadership program that included several men from the downtown Panama City church plant, including several who became ruling elders
- Managed multiple mercy-oriented projects, including providing employment to several immigrant & refugee families and providing food and shelter for others
- Led music worship in Spanish downtown Panama City church plant and in several evangelistic outreaches within downtown urban Panama City and surrounding communities



- Taught and preached in Spanish at downtown Panama City church plant
- Managed and led 4-8 short-term teams per year, throughout Central America, which included event planning, evangelistic outreaches, logistics and budgeting, leading Bible studies, as well as hosting and leading summer internship programs
- Developed ministry relationships across denominational lines in order to further kingdom expansion

How have we served over the past 15 years?



- Developed a ministry to the workers and orphans at the first and only special needs orphanage in Panama, leading weekly Sunday Bible lessons and music worship
- Formed and managed a group of missionaries from various organizations in order to engage an indigenous community with the goal of gospel formation and church planting which has led to 8 baptisms

- Developed working ministry relationships within three tribal groups, including the Embera, Wounaan and Guna tribes
- Organized, served and coached in various sports ministry events, games, tournaments and clinics
- Formed and served in a P.E. ministry at a small Panamanian Christian school in need



What are our future plans?

We are currently raising financial support to return back to the mission field this fall 2024, Lord willing. Our plan upon returning to Panama is to spend time re-connecting and building on those relationships and ministries which God has built and grown over the years. We will focus our efforts on the downtown Panama City community surrounding our church as well as various indigenous communities with the goal of evangelizing, equipping and encouraging the Church. We will also continue to facilitate and lead short-term teams by strategically and prayerfully working to plug our teams into the local church and ministries in Panama, serving where there are needs and using gifts for His glory.



YEAR 1

- Focus on establishing our family back in Panama and grow our local community relationships
- Worship and serve in our local church
- Preach and teach in our church and surrounding churches in need
- Plan and lead 3-4 short-term teams to serve alongside us in Panama

YEAR 2

- Continue to build on 1st year plans
- Develop a discipleship and leadership theological training program for leaders in the church
- Help utilize our teams, resources, and connections for His kingdom
- Start a local community sports & arts ministry/club & begin raising funds for a building/facility
- Plan and lead 3-4 short-term teams to serve alongside us in Panama
- Host summer intern (as in previous years)

YEARS 3-5

- Continue to build on 1st and 2nd year plans
- Grow the discipleship and leadership theological training program and graduate leaders
- See the Church in Panama continue to grow and new churches planted
- Grow local community sports & arts ministry/club
- Purchase a building/facility to be used for sports & arts ministry, church, housing short-term teams, Bible studies, music worship nights, internship/GAP program and establish & employ a team to run the facility
- Plan and lead 4-5 short-term teams to serve alongside us in Panama

How can you help support this ministry?

1. PRAYER

We need faithful prayer partners committed to pray for our family and ministry to Panama. Through seasons of highs and lows on the mission field over the years, times of loneliness, isolation, loss, opposition, weakness and discouragement, the Lord continually upheld us by the power of His Word through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the prayers of the saints. Prayer keeps us dependent on the Lord and each other. Prayer does battle against the world, the flesh and the enemy.

"Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak"

Eph. 6:18-20



2. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We need to raise our personal and ministry financial support. We are in need of committed, monthly ministry partners to join in the work of the gospel going out to Panama. Your faithful monthly support as well as one-time giving will allow us to fully focus on our family and gospel ministry.

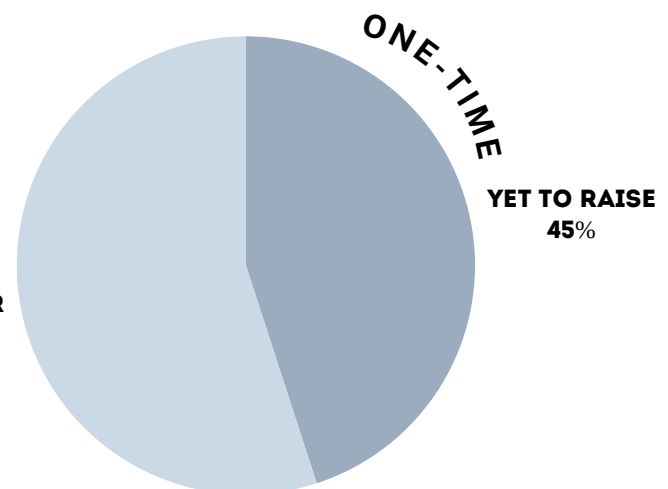
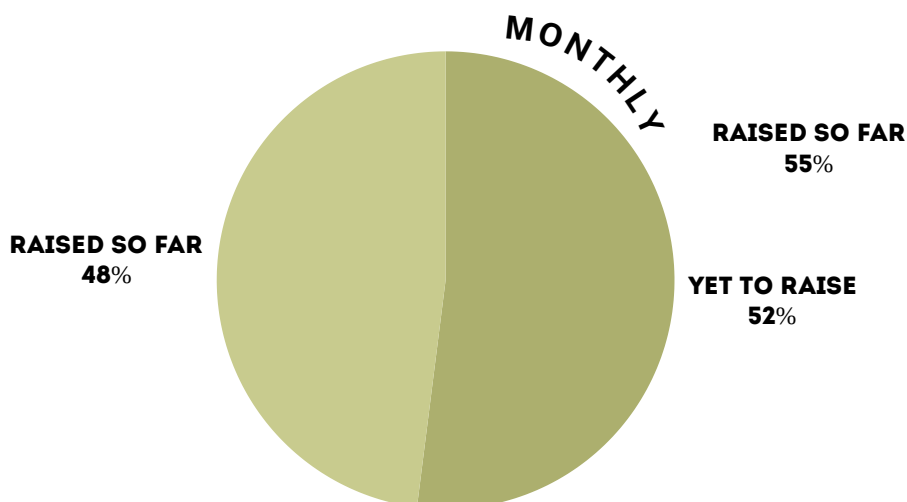


MONTHLY

We are looking to raise a total of **\$11,500/month**, which will cover all of our monthly needs, on the field ministry costs, insurance for the whole family, future home mission assignments and schooling for our children. Right now, we are currently at \$5,520/month and are in need of an additional \$5,980/month.

ONE-TIME

Our one time needs are **\$35,000** for a family vehicle and **\$20,000** for international moving expenses. We have currently raised \$30,250 and are in need of \$24,750.



How can you give?



OPTION #1: Make an online donation easily and securely via PushPay using this QR code.



OPTION #2: Mail a donation (either directly or from your bank's online bill pay) to Sport X Change at PO Box 710, West Palm Beach, FL 33402

OPTION #3: Download a monthly direct debit form at www.sportxchange.org/give and mail to Sport X Change at PO Box 710, West Palm Beach, FL 33402.



How can you stay connected?

Email us if you'd like to sign up for our newsletter updates

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***Thank you for your support
of our family and Christ's kingdom.***

We could not do this work without you!