



# the SHIELDS family

April 2020

Third generation missionaries church planting in Panama

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The entire country of Panama is under obligatory quarantine at home. Borders are closed and there are no flights in or out. Only one person is allowed to leave the house for a two hour period three days a week only to buy food or medicine. We have been stuck at home since March 13 and under total quarantine since March 25. Normally we buy groceries in bulk and get our mail in the city about an hour away, but no longer are permitted out of the house long enough to get there. We can get basic items here in our rural town, but at an elevated cost.

People have been rioting and looting due to lack of money to buy food. Police are on the streets at all times to ensure the quarantine. We are fine, but most people in our area live day to day and are suffering greatly and going without food. *Pray* that we can get special permission to buy more food than the item limits allow and be able to take it to some of the pastors in the comarca.

Also *pray* about the countrywide water shortage Panama has been enduring for around two months now. A lack of water is always a problem, but especially so during a healthcare crisis.

This newsletter continues reporting on events that happened before the Coronavirus shutdown.

### ***Ethan recently had the privilege of baptizing our son Noah!***

What a joy to see our children walk in truth! Ethan and our coworker Alex **baptized a total of 14 people** at our church in San Félix. Several more expressed interest in being baptized so we plan to do this as soon as we are able. One of the people Ethan baptized is a girl named Natalie. She was the first person saved under our ministry here in Panama! Ethan also baptized her mother, Ericka.



A church from Panama City came over to do children's activities with us in three churches in the comarca. Through this outreach **multiple kids received Christ as Savior, 14 in Sabana Grande, 22 in Tebujo, and 6 in Playa Las Lajas!**

We are grateful to be recipients of free, hardback Bibles from the BEAMS ministry in Gulfport, MS. We have given out around 45 Bibles already this year both to new converts and even some to pastors whose Bibles had fallen apart due to usage.

A team of Bible translators from Mexico are actively raising support to come to Panama as missionaries. They will be translating/revising the New Testament in Ngäbere, the language of our indigenous Ngäbe people. This is a direct answer to *prayer!* We also *pray* that God will provide a way to translate the Old Testament.