

VIOLA TO PANAMA

Jan. - Feb. 2025 Prayer Letter

Greetings to all of our supporters and prayer warriors. We give thanks unto the Lord for all of you.

♦ January Update:

During January, we were able to visit two additional cities here in Panama to survey them. The first city that we visited was the city of La Chorrera. La Chorrera has a population of 258,000 people. In surveying the city we were able to find about eight independent Baptist churches. The second city we were visited is called Arraijan, which has a population of nearly 300,000 people. During our time in Arraijan, we were able to locate another eight independent Baptist churches. There is still much work to be done in these cities, as they are two of the fastest growing cities in all of Panama over the last ten years.

♦ February Update:

In February, we laid out the cities that we have visited over the past few months and prayed the Lord would open the doors for where He wants us to start the first church plant. The cities that laid heaviest upon our hearts are Chitre, Santiago, Aguadulce, & Penonome. After much prayer, searching, and discussions, we have determined that the Lord is directing us to start our work in the city of Santiago.

We immediately started searching for a house to rent, but found it to be quite challenging in finding a house that would work and be on the side of the city we have a desire to start the church. However, we remembered that in our surveying of the city last year we had met a couple who were moving to Panama City and were wanting to either sell or rent their house. Of course at that time that we met them we were still unsure where the Lord was directing us, but now that we knew, we reached out to them to see if the house was still available. We learned that, just a few days before, their buyer had backed out due to health issues. They told us that they were more than happy to rent to us, feeling more confident in us than others who had made inquiries about the house. Therefore, we contracted to rent the house, and we give praise to God for providing a house that works for our growing family and that can function for future church activities and events as well.

We then searched for and hired a moving company, which in itself was a great challenge to find a company that did in-country moves and not just international moves. We then started the process of packing and made the move on the second to last day of the month. As I write this letter, we are still in the unpacking and organization phase. Please pray for us as we get settled into our new house, and as we begin to make plans to reach out into our new city with the Gospel.

♦ Family Update

On March 5th, we will be traveling to the US Embassy to attend the required interview, in order to claim Emma's US citizenship. Please be in prayer that this process will go smoothly with no issues.

With Blessings,
Zach & Maria Viola
Your missionaries to Panama



Prayer Requests

1. Please pray for the lost souls of Panama.
2. Please pray that God would open the doors and soften the hearts of those in our new city as we take the Gospel throughout.
3. Please be in prayer that God will prepare the way and have the place we need ready, when we begin our search to find a meeting place to rent for the future church plant.

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