

THE VIOLAS TO PANAMA

March - April 2025 Prayer Letter

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

♦ March Update:

Hello from the city of Santiago. On the second to last day of February, we moved to the city of Santiago in the Veraguas Province of Panama. During the next few weeks as we unpacked and got settled into our new house, we have slowly started to learn more about the city. After moving to Santiago, we had to travel down to Panama City to the US Embassy in order to attend the interview to obtain Emma's US citizenship. After a bit of a hiccup at the gates, where they did not have our appointment on their printout sheets, we were able to attend the interview, and Emma was given her US citizenship! We thank the Lord and want to say thank you to everyone who prayed for a smooth process.

While in Panama City, we met a young Panamanian man named Alexander, who we learned had attended a Christian-named university in the States. However, after talking with him I came to realize he was not saved, so I presented the Gospel to him. Unfortunately, after talking with him for an hour about God, sin, repentance, mercy, grace, and salvation, he said, "I just can't trust in a God who can forgive murderers." It was heartbreakingly to hear him say this. Please pray for Alexander and that God would continue to work on his heart.

♦ April Update:

After moving to Santiago, we took time to explore more of the city, to locate a lot of places we needed to find. While doing this our path had crossed with many people. We met a lady named Claudia who spoke with us after seeing Emma. She began talking about her family and many other things, and we told her why we came to Santiago. When she heard we were from the U.S., she told us how she hated Americans because of many recent things that have been happening. Before we could even get the chance to share the Gospel with her, she just walked off. Recently, with all the talk of the canal, I have been asked if there has been a change of attitude towards Americans in Panama. Before Claudia, we had not run across any hate. It was new for us, but nonetheless we press on. Please pray for Claudia. Some other folks we have met are our neighbor Israel and his wife and kids, a young man named Giovanni, Jacob, Christian, Victor and his family, a woman named Belinda, and many others. Please pray that the Lord will be working in their hearts and will grant us the opportunities to present the Gospel to them.

Once we were fully settled into our house, we started the hunt to try to find a place to rent for the church plant. We searched all throughout the downtown and city and we quickly learned that a location big enough for 50 people and a children's room was not going to be easy to find for a good price. But Praise the Lord, we were able to find a space of about 1200 square feet on the second floor of a plaza right in the heart of downtown for only \$600 a month. At the end of the month we came to terms on the contract with the owner and signed it, and received the keys. Glory be to God!

However, now that we have the place, we have a lot of work ahead of us to get it ready for the first service. Please be in prayer as we work on the space (finding and buying 50 chairs, wall material to build the children's room, buy and install a walled AC unit, new toilet for the bathroom, plus bibles, sound equipment, paint, and many other things) to get it ready. We will also be ordering tracts and John & Roman booklets and other material to put in packs for the door to door outreach we plan to do before we hold the first service. Please pray that the Lord will open the doors as we reach out into the community with the Gospel!

We also want to let you know that we have set up a new ministry page on Facebook called "The Viola Family to Panama". If you wish to see photos of what we are doing, you can see it there! For those of you who follow us on Instagram, that page will remain active alongside the Facebook page.



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 door to door.
3. Please continue to pray for our safety and health here in Panama.

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