

The Nortons in Latin America

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Dear Pastor and Church family,

We pray this letter finds you well in the Lord's service. The Lord continues to bless allowing us to see folks saved regularly. Last Sunday evening, we baptized a young man who had been saved some time ago here with us. He has been faithful for several weeks and had come to me wanting to get baptized. Next week, we have our faith promise missions' conference. It is the highlight of our church year. Our goal this year is to be able to increase our monthly support for each family we are currently supporting, as well as, to be able to take on some others. In December, we have several events planned here and in our mission works with the goal of reaching many more for the cause of Christ. Please, pray with us that the Lord would fill us with His power and bless our efforts as we endeavor to preach the gospel to the lost.

Having said that, I need to let you know about what the Lord is doing in our lives. On August 19th one of our former pastors, Pastor Rick Dawson went home to be with the Lord. A few days after the funeral, the church, which is one of our supporting churches, contacted me stating that they would like to talk with me and were interested in having me come and preach. At that time, there was no way for me to do this. A couple months later, I was contacted again. I had been praying, and the Lord opened the door for us to visit them and to preach there on Sunday, October 21st. A couple of days later, we were back home in Ixmiquilpan and the church sent me some questions, which I answered. Two days later they sent me a few more, which I once again answered. It was clear that the Lord was working in my heart, as well as, in the heart of His people. This past Sunday, November 4th, the church voted to call me to be their pastor. And being led of the Lord, I accepted the call. Yesterday, on Wednesday November 7th, in the morning I talked with my pastor to get some counsel on how to proceed. Several years ago he went through the same process, and talking with him was a real blessing. Later the same day, I told my assistant pastor. He's a young man who was saved, baptized, and trained here under our ministry. He is my Timothy and has been my right hand man for several years now. He will be taking over the work. Last night in our service, I informed the church of what the Lord has led me to do. It was a difficult night, but the Lord worked in a mighty way! However, that is a story for another time. And today November 8th I am writing you, our supporting churches, to inform you of this situation. We will be fulfilling all of our obligations and commitments here until the end of the year, as well as, a couple of commitments in February of 2019. And during that time, we will be working on transitioning from Ixmiquilpan, Mexico to Arkansas. At the present time, we are not receiving any monetary support from the church in Arkansas other than our monthly missionary support. It is our prayer that the Lord would lead you to continue supporting us until this transition is finished. It is hard to believe that this chapter of our lives is coming to an end. Lynne and I have been missionaries for over 26 years. All four of our children were born and raised on the mission field. The Lord has been so good! And we count it a privilege and an honor to have served the Lord together with you for so many years. And we rejoice in the Lord and praise the name that is above every name for the fruit that abounds to your account. From the bottom of our hearts we say "THANK YOU!" It is our plan to send you two, possibly three more prayer letters to keep you abreast of what is going on. We would also like to request that after March 2019 NO monthly support be sent to us. It is with tears in our eyes and with rejoicing in our hearts that we say, "We love and appreciate you folks!"

Until the nets are full,
Bill and Lynne Norton
Nahum 1:7