

# THE MACKENSEN MEMO

RONNIE AND JAQUE MACKENSEN • December 2019 • CHIRIQUI, PANAMA



## Saludos a todo!

¿Cómo están mis amigos? ¡Nosotros hemos estado muy ocupados aprendiendo Español!  
¿...Que qué?

Last time we wrote to all of you we were preparing to start our journey to Nicaragua with the goal of learning Spanish and working alongside the other Grace Ministries International missionaries, Milo and Raquel Seravalli. Our time here in Nicaragua so far has been very fruitful; we have spent time with the Seravallis who are well seasoned missionaries learning how they have established a church, built ministries, made connections, trained leaders, and how they have fellowship with the people of Nicaragua and other churches in Nicaragua.

You may not have understood the beginning of our letter (we wouldn't have either six months ago). While in Nicaragua, we have been very busy learning the language, Spanish. Shortly after arriving in Nicaragua, we began our language studies having our class five days a week for three hours a day. The school's strategy for teaching a language is to fully immerse students in the language, teaching the entire class in the language the students desire to learn. As you can imagine, beginning a class like this was very difficult, especially for Ronnie! But we are happy to report that our studies are going well for both of us. We are able to hold basic conversations which has allowed to better get to know the Nicaraguans. We are currently in the intermediate course of our language school, so please continue to pray for us as we continue to take our Spanish courses and become more fluent speakers.

We have also spent our weekends in Nagarote with Milo and Raquel at the Arraigados church which is the church planted by the missionaries. This time has been very beneficial for three major reasons: 1) it has allowed us to observe and see the various ministries

that the Arraigados church has and how they are conducted, 2) it has allowed us to participate in the existing ministries and even start a new Taekwondo ministry, and finally 3) it also has allowed us to help the other missionaries with the existing ministries which has helped to advance the gospel message and disciple the people there. With all this time we have had so far we have been able to observe how Milo and Raquel and their leaders they have trained conduct the ministries at Arraigados church. This has been super beneficial for us because we plan to use what we have learned in Nicaragua at the church we will plant in Panama.

One of the ministries we have been helping with is the Arraigados Kid's Club ministry which is similar to an Awana program in the United States. We have helped prepare crafts, songs, games, and lessons in Spanish for the Kid's Club. This has challenged and stretched us to practice and use the Spanish we have learned resulting in the improvement of our speech and listening comprehension. Also by being a part of the ministries it has given us a lot of opportunities to have fellowship with the Nicaraguenses and with Milo and Raquel!



*Thanksgiving dinner with Milo and Raquel Seravalli*



*Taekwondo class*

Ronnie has also started a Taekwondo ministry at Arraigados. This has pushed him to speak and to speak well in order to effectively teach the class. The goals of the Taekwondo ministry are that the students learn Taekwondo technique, have a time of prayer with the Lord, and also have time to study the Word of God. The theme of our class comes from 1 Timothy 4, where Paul writes that bodily training is of some value but godliness is much more value for our present life and the one to come. To know and follow our Lord Jesus Christ is far better and more important than anything we ever do in our lives and that includes Taekwondo.

Looking forward, we will be in Nicaragua for at least another six months finishing our language studies. After we finish language school, our plan is to go to Panama and meet up with our ministry partners, Alvaro and Mauren Barrantes, where we have the

goal to establish relationships with locals in Panama, evangelize and disciple them, ultimately planting a church that proclaims the gospel of Jesus Christ rightly dividing the Word of God and that teaches the believer to walk in the Spirit according to this dispensation of grace.

In the developing city of David, Panama, we hope that we can slowly develop strong relationships with the Panamanians we meet so we can share Christ with them, building them up in the faith, and strengthening and growing the Body of Christ in Panama. We hope to use the knowledge and skills that God has blessed us with, along with the experiences He has given us during this time in Nicaragua.

Please always pray for our health, that we remain strong and healthy as God uses us here in Nicaragua and also in the future. Ronnie is an analytical man, desiring ef-

iciency and logical systems. Language is a skill that takes time and can only be optimized so much.

Please pray for Ronnie that the Holy Spirit would give him endurance and patience as he continues to work hard to understand and learn Spanish.

Pray for Jaque that she continues to step out in faith, allowing God to continue to use her in teaching and discipling others in Spanish.

Please pray for the Panama team—our partners Alvaro and Mauren, as they break ground in Panama and await our arrival, and pray for the team as it begins its work, furthering the gospel and growing the Body of Christ.

**Ronnie and Jaqueline Mackensen**

