



David and Suzannah Nacho Complete Term of Service with Canadian Baptist Ministries

For over 12 years, David and Suzannah Nacho continued in faithful service to God through Canadian Baptist Ministries' global ministry. Before moving to Costa Rica in 2016 to serve with the Center for Interdisciplinary Theological Studies (CETI), the Nacho family ministered with CBM in Bolivia, El Salvador, and Argentina. Those experiences enhanced their outreach through CETI. During the pandemic, David, as academic dean of the CETI certificate program, had an even busier online workload while meeting with CETI's partners and helping them navigate the specific challenges brought by COVID-19. David offered pastoral support and care to the students; those hardest hit are from Brazil, Ecuador, and Bolivia. Many of the students have family members who are sick or dying, and coping with the growing anxiety of lack of health care and job losses is an ongoing struggle.

Suzannah formerly taught a CETI class on spirituality and discernment, but since the cancellation of the class and the March 10 lockdown due to COVID-19, her teaching focus has shifted to the in-house schooling of their three children. By the end of the school year in November, children in Costa Rica experienced nine of the ten months of school in virtual



learning. Emotionally, this was a hard time for the Nacho kids as they had not seen friends or been out among people, and they missed those relationships. In spite of all the closures the children participated in the life of the church, helping with a ministry of compassion through food distribution toward the growing number of vulnerable in their community. The family has practised 2 Corinthians 1:3–4: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction so that we will be able to comfort those who are in any affliction with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (NASB).



David, Andrés, Sophía, Anna Laura, and Suzannah Nacho

Besides this ministry of assisting churches integrate their faith with current events, David recently taught a new class online which explored how the Beatitudes guide believers to live in hope and mercy. During the shutdown of in-person church gatherings, those living in the cities are able to continue to do Bible studies through Zoom. In the rural areas no churches are open and online services are not an option.

CBM's COVID-relief initiative partnered with local churches in Costa Rica to provide food baskets for families that lost jobs or had their income reduced when the tourism industry ended. Three pastors who reach out to immigrant communities received financial assistance. CBM's Latin America field staff are considering how they can promote financial recovery through agricultural activities as well as help to revive small businesses.

In December, the Nachos will end their service with Canadian Baptist Ministries and return to Canada, where David will be assuming a pastoral role at First Baptist Church in Vancouver in the new year.

Prayer Requests

- ▣ The pandemic has put a huge strain on many family relationships, and domestic abuse is on the rise throughout Latin America. Please pray that God can be present in the homes more than ever, and continue to pray for provision and work for these families during COVID.
- ▣ Pray for God's blessing upon the Nacho family and their next steps in ministry, and pray for clarity and wisdom for the continuing CETI program.

by Ruth Anna Dana

Sources: www.cbmin.org; April 17, June 24, and July 20 CBM Calling videos (Facebook); CBM press release.