



## OPEN DOORS

After returning from our Christmas visit in the U.S., we sat down together for our yearly "knee-to-knee" where we evaluate where we are and where we feel God is leading us. We both felt that God had shut the door on our vision of a community center (at least for this time) and was leading us to begin reaching the community through local churches. With this in mind, Alan spoke with a pastor whom we had already built a relationship with. After explaining our desire to offer free English-language classes for the purpose of evangelism, the pastor enthusiastically agreed. Within a week, Alan was teaching two classes a week, using the book of Mark as the basis of his language classes. At the same time, another local ministry asked if he would teach a Bible class in English to Mexican students who wanted to improve their language skills. Suddenly, the two of us were teaching 7 English-language classes a week and building relationships with about 30 families.



**Pray for Toño and his mother, Santa**



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### UPDATE

Many of you have been praying for 9 year old, Toño, as he and his mother traveled back and forth from Mexico City meeting with multiple specialists about removing a large tumor from his eye. The surgery required is extensive and will include 5 specialists. On January 27th, we flew them to Mexico City in preparation for the surgery on February 13th. The doctors will be monitoring his diet to make sure that he is strong enough to survive the 8 hour surgery. They are optimistic that the surgery will save his eyesight and enable him to lead a normal life. Though medical treatment is free here, the family couldn't have afforded to travel to Mexico City without your support.

*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps. Prov. 16:9*



## Unexpected Ministries

Our plans, on coming to Mexico, were solely to minister to Spanish-speaking people in Central and South America.

However, from our first visit to Puerto Morelos in 2021, God began to place expats (the term given to foreigners living in another country) in our lives.

Approximately 1.6 million Americans live in Mexico and another 1.5 million Canadians spend at least half of the year there. Despite these rising numbers, few English-language churches exist outside of the major cities. In July we were asked to start one in Puerto Morelos. The Bible Fellowship of Puerto Morelos began with 5 members and soon tripled in size.

In January we were asked to begin a mid-week evening Bible study for those unable to attend the Sunday morning service. About a dozen expats are attending that service.



## Upcoming Events

- Backyard Gardening Workshops will be held in three locations in February. Gardening specialist, Julie Auten, will be instructing locals on composting, seed harvesting, and natural pest prevention methods (with the assistance of local translators) as part of our outreach ministry. This also opens up a new mission point for us in the city of Leona Vicario.
- Pastor Training in Panama begins this year. We will be traveling to the Vulcan area (in the mountains of Panama) in late March-early April with a strategy team and will begin classes in Old Testament that week.



Our new mission point in Leona Vicario



**Please pray for us as we minister in Mexico!**