



Latest News from Mark and Mary Bonham

April 10, 2024

Dear Friend,

I have some very sad news to share. Fernando and Gaby, Loving Well facilitators in Argentina and co-laborers with Shepherd's Heart Mission Associates Carlos and Chelita, lost their 11-year-old son, Benjamin, to cancer this past week. When we met them last summer in Colombia they were so excited to be partnering in marriage ministry. (See *Fernando, second from the left, and Gaby, lower center, with Chelita, far left and Carlos, far right in the picture below*). We grieve their loss and their pain.



Carlos and Chelita's daughter was married on April 6. Carlos officiated the wedding and hours later the funeral. Joy and pain were coupled together with close their friends. This is truly "loving well".



**Benjamín Ibañez Massuh**

2012-2024



Benjamin's death was sudden and unexpected. From diagnosis to passing it was less than a week. He leaves behind two younger brothers.

*"We must learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer."*

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Mary is continuing chemotherapy with the strongest chemo dosage behind her. She is now in the second phase with 10 more weekly infusions, followed by daily radiation for 4 weeks. So far she is tolerating the treatments, though she finds it all very exhausting. We look forward to the end of July when she completes this regimen.

The Men's Story group finished at the end of March and those who completed the time bonded over vulnerable sharing and a commitment to trusting God for redemption of damage that the enemy planned to limit their impact. They desire to continue to meet for mutual encouragement as they press on.

Tomorrow, April 17, I depart for Hungary. It has been 5 years since my last visit. I am anxious to see the friends that we met with for over 13 years. I have been scheduling meetings and realize that every day will be full. While there I will be one of the speakers at a conference on abuse, sponsored by an organization called "Life from the Ruins". I will be speaking on Rebuilding Broken Walls. Mary's sister will be with Mary while I am away. Please hold this trip in your prayers, along with each of the things shared above.

A link to our March banquet at the Kalamazoo Air Zoo is below. About 200 people attended. I thought you would not only enjoy seeing part of it but might also consider participating in supporting our ministry projects. If you are particularly interested in helping with the purchase of the mission house for Carlos and Chelita, let me know and I will send you directions for supporting that project. Otherwise, donations can be sent to the address below. We continue with God's help and your partnership, and we are deeply grateful for both. Here's the banquet link: <https://youtu.be/vNvfW7DBFC4>

His and yours,

*Mark and Mary*

The Bonhams

"Compassion is about the spark of empathy that ignites when we see a piece of ourselves in another person's struggle. The brokenness we witness might be theirs today, but it could be ours tomorrow. Jeremiah 31:20 tells us, "*My inner being yearns for him; I will truly have compassion on him.*" God's love is a wellspring of compassion."

From Rich Perez in CT Pastors

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