



UPDATE from Judy Murphy

Thank you for praying for me and for all the ways you care for me! And greetings from snowy, icy Indiana. Someone at church hit the nail on the head when he said, "Welcome to not-Guatemala!" In the picture: enjoying a Venezuela plantain sandwich- yummy but messy to eat.

*"for we walk by faith, not by sight. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to **please him.**" 2 Corinthians 5:7,9*

I am serving and finding my way in a new and completely different ministry. This process for me is full of beauty, awkwardness, joy, newness, differing cultural expectations, blessings, loss, family togetherness, uncertainty and anticipation. It is a **kaleidoscope!** And through all the new colors and patterns, I see and feel and know the bedrock of **God's faithfulness.** It is wonderful to be near family.

How are you helping to spread the gospel and make disciples of Jesus Christ?

This was a ministry update question from Chelton, my sending church. It strikes me as a question for each follower of Jesus, actually! Here are a few facets of life and ministry in answer.

Starting August 14, 2024, I transitioned with my mission, Avant Ministries, to a new field and ministry. My sister, Debbie Murphy, and my dad, Clyde Murphy, have also transitioned to this ministry. Debbie is in full time service, as I am. My dad officially moved to retirement status January 1st at age 82, but he continues to serve as he is able.

Current trends in immigration from Latin America have brought a flood of Spanish speaking people who desperately **need Jesus** right to our doorsteps here in the United States. We are reaching out to show them and tell them about our wonderful hope in Jesus!

We are Centro de Apoyo Familiar Esperanza (C.A.F.E.)! This translates to Hope Center for Family Support, an evangelistic and church planting outreach to Spanish speaking people in the Kokomo, Indiana area. It is a ministry of Bible Baptist Church. The ministry currently includes: Monday night soccer, guitar lessons, English classes, special events for Spanish



speakers -such as Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year, Easter- weekly Spanish Sunday school/Bible study, simultaneous translation of the Sunday morning church service into Spanish, men's discipleship, women's discipleship, and biblical counseling. Soccer, from 10 PM to midnight draws the largest weekly group, and also includes people from India, Korea and Italy!

<https://www.facebook.com/CAFEdeKokomo>

<https://www.bbcministries.org/>



My personal roles, as they are developing, include teaching the beginning level of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes twice a week. I am a teacher, and I love teaching, so this has really been enjoyable- part of the **beauty** in this new place! So far, all of our students except one are Spanish speakers, so before and

after class Debbie and I are blessed to chat with students and pray for them in Spanish.

“Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies; so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” 1 Peter 4:11

I take my turn teaching a children's Sunday school class in Spanish. The kids who are coming, a small group, do not know the Lord, so this is a spiritual burden and an amazing opportunity to directly share the gospel. Please **pray** for these young souls! When I don't teach on Sunday, I attend the Spanish SS class, learn, and try to help everyone to feel welcome.

Something I find rather **daunting** is that I have been asked to join the biblical counseling team at Bible Baptist Church in order to meet a need for counseling women in Spanish. This is a free service offered to the community. I am currently working on the requirements for certification as a biblical counselor. I would appreciate prayer for this certification process! It involves serious hard work, but every element brings personal spiritual growth. Ask me about it if you are interested. I may begin soon to counsel a Spanish speaking lady that one of the pastors met in Walmart. I have attended Level 1 and Level 2 trainings. At church, I will meet monthly with a group to discuss the exam questions and keep moving forward with answering those. Currently, this preparation uses part of my ministry time.

It is possible that I may offer homework help to Spanish speaking students in the schools near the church. I called the school system, but I have not heard back from them. Please pray about this possibility. I need to **follow up!**

All of these activities are bringing many people who do not know Jesus to the church! In every activity we have a time of prayer for those present. In special activities and in SS the **gospel** is presented very directly and clearly! So exciting!

I also have the privilege of continuing my Bible study with my ladies in **Guatemala** by Zoom on Monday evenings. It is a smaller group that connects, but such a blessing to those of us who take time to meet. Yesterday we read and discussed Acts 17. I deeply miss my Guatemala people and ministries, so this is a small way to stay in touch.

I am seeking to **grow** spiritually in my own life, to get to know people, and to serve the church that carries out this outreach ministry to Spanish speaking people. I am participating in a women's Bible study (in English) studying Colossians, and I am singing in the choir and taking a turn on the worship team. The normal activities of a member of the body of Christ!

I would love to **see you** during my upcoming trip to visit my supporting churches in Pennsylvania! Here is my itinerary:

March 8-9 Grace Church of Harmony, Harmony, PA <https://www.gcoh.org/>

March 16 Chelten Church, Dresher, PA <https://chelten.org/>

March 23 Calvary Memorial Church, Philadelphia, PA <https://calvarymemorialchurch.org/>

March 30 First Baptist Church, Upper Burrell, PA <https://fbcupperburrell.org/>

If you are nearby, please join us. I know many of you are not in these areas, so please call me or send an email. Maybe we can get together! Or video chat!

Thank you again for your friendship and your financial support! The Lord bless you!

Judy

Judy Murphy

Avant Ministries

Centro de Apoyo Familiar Esperanza (C.A.F.E.)

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