



The Larsens with NEXT



We hope your new year is off to a good start, and you already see the Lord at work!

Will you take minute to give thanks and lift up the following with us?

1. First NEXT Team Retreat in 5 years!

Rebecca and I returned January 3 from leading our team retreat in Mexico. Praise God for a wonderful time of reconnection around our shared global vision, refreshment in the gospel, and relationship building as we press-on to serve together in mission.

Rebecca and I can't help but marvel at the team God has grown since we started NEXT in 2007: from just the two of us and our 4 kids to a team of over 20 adults (39 including kids) based in South America, Asia-Pacific, Europe and North America. And through our programs and partners, the ministry extends into Africa and the Muslim world as well.

Thank you Father for your faithfulness and blessing. May our team continue to grow deeper in the gospel and wider in reach for your kingdom advance among the nations and next generation!

2. Celebration and suffering in Bogotá, Colombia.

As is often the case, affirmation and affliction go hand-in-hand in God's plan. Just days ago, our plan was to celebrate the wedding of an MK we discipled since his youth and has since joined our team. But within hours of arriving in Bogotá, Eric was in hospital with teammates in crisis, while Rebecca cared for their other children. By God's grace, we saw miraculous healing over the next few days, and the wedding took place with even greater joy and enthusiasm for all involved. More than that, a powerful testimony of His grace to a watching world! Praise the Lord!

3. Serving mission families and training national leaders.

At this moment Rebecca is headed to St. Simon's Island, GA to lead *Refresh*: a week-long debrief retreat for mission kids and families in crisis and transition. And Eric is headed to Mexico to teach *Models and Methods of Next Generation Ministry* at our NEXT Institute site with San Pablo

Seminary in Merida.

Please pray for the two of us while apart serving in different countries. For strength and endurance as we are already tired less than one month into 2024. But most of all, for mission kids to be celebrated in God's mission, supported through the trials they face, and furthered in their discipleship journey.

And please pray for the Mexican church and the leaders God has raised up. Pray they're built up in their faith and effectiveness as agents of grace in sharing the good news with tweens, teens and twentysomethings in their local communities.

We'll be back from travels at the end of this month. Please look for our February update with stories and pictures of "*what we've seen and heard*" (Acts 4:20).

Until then, we covet your prayers friends!

In His Grip,
Eric & Rebecca (& family)

If you would like to give to the Larsen's ministry with Next, you can either [give online](#), **mail a check to MTW Donations** (PO Box 744165, Atlanta, GA 30374 - 4165 please include #29256 in the memo), or [make a stock transfer](#).



*For the Nations
and Next Generation*

Copyright © 2024 Next, All rights reserved.