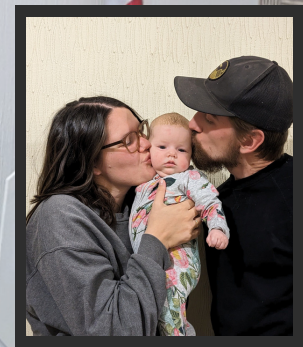


# WHAT'S NEW WITH THE NICKELS?



## BAPTISMS

One of the things that excites us the most is being able to participate in and witness transformation in people as God's word and Spirit work within their hearts. In the past couple of months we have seen fruit, and we had the incredible joy of seeing 9 people baptized!! 2 are students in the current DTS and 7 are from one of the rehab centres that Matt visits every week. Seeing these men publicly declare their faith in Christ by identifying with Jesus in His death and resurrection fills us with so much joy! **Praise God!!**



7 men from a rehab that Matt visits weekly were baptized!



2 of our DTS students were baptized on base!

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:19-20

If you want to see more of the baptisms, or other pictures and videos from the past year you can find them in our latest video update. Check it out [here](#).



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# WHAT'S NEW WITH THE NICKELS?

## 52 IN 520 (LONG TERM VISION)

Ok, this next part is **REALLY** exciting. We hope you get excited with us in this!! During our paternity/maternity leave, we began to ask God for specific direction for our life and ministry. We know that our calling is to San Juan del Río, but we realized that we want to focus and concentrate our time and efforts into the specific mission God has for us. After lots of praying, thinking, and chatting with others on base, we are so excited to share with you a new long-term ministry initiative that we are calling **52 in 520**.

52 in 520 is an initiative with the goal of ensuring that every person who goes through rehab treatment in San Juan (an estimated 1500-2500 people every year) hears the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and is presented with the opportunity to be discipled. Within 520 weeks (10 years) we want to establish long-lasting relationships between all 52 rehab centres and a Christian community in order to see:

- the rehab centre directors come to know Christ and base their treatment on the Bible
- the Church in San Juan to be equipped and mobilized to reach our city with the hope and love of Christ
- people who have been stuck in cycles of addiction to be set free, discipled and accepted into the Church where they can serve using their gifts and also continue receiving discipleship and fellowship

If you've been following along with us for the last 3 years you know that rehab ministry is a huge part of what we do here in San Juan. Our base directors Rob + Kathryn Harryman and others on base have been engaged in rehab ministry from the beginning of the base, and it has been consistently growing since then. In the last 6 months God has truly astounded us by swinging doors wide open, as you'll see below in some of the pictures! Here are some of the exciting early developments of 52 in 520:



In early September Matt and Micha connected with the first halfway house that we are aware of in San Juan! This is a place where rehab graduates can live at night while they work during the day. It provides accountability and a more gradual transition back into the world after detoxing in a rehab centre. This will help to combat one of the biggest challenges people with addictions struggle with. We have found that about 75% of people in rehab centres are returning members, some having gone through rehab more than 10 times!

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# WHAT'S NEW WITH THE NICKELS?

## 52 IN 520 (LONG TERM VISION)



Matt sharing the 52 in 520 vision at a pastors' alliance meeting in San Juan

Reaching every single person that passes through rehab with the gospel will be impossible if we don't work with the local church. In early October, Matt and Rob had the opportunity to share the vision with many pastors who participate in a pastors' alliance meeting. We are hoping and praying that many local churches will catch this vision to reach our city! **Please pray for unity, passion, and a boldness to be the hands and feet of Jesus!!**

A quick, incredible testimony: a man named Jesús from our church has had multiple dreams in which God has asked him to turn his business (a metalwork shop) into a place where recovering addicts can learn the trade. He has been taking steps of faith to launch this initiative, and we believe it'll play a vital role in the 52 in 520 initiative! **Please pray for wisdom for Jesús as he follows God's plan!**



Matt sharing a devotional with Jesús + Carlos' (his son, a good friend of ours) metalwork crew.



Gabriel (DTS student) sharing his testimony at Celebrate Recovery

Another door that God has opened is Celebrate Recovery (CR). CR is the Christian equivalent to Alcoholics Anonymous, designed to help people struggling with addictions. In mid September the base began running this 7 week course as a trial run to determine whether it will be an effective ministry to offer to people who have left rehab centres and are looking for followup. **Please pray for wisdom and direction for this ministry!**

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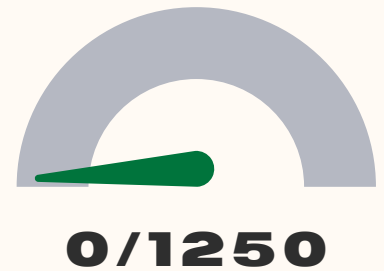
# WHAT'S NEW WITH THE NICKELS?

## FAMILY NEWS



On October 3rd, we celebrated Matt's 3 year anniversary of moving to Mexico! In December, we will celebrate 6 years since Bonnie began working at the base! These are exciting milestones for us as a family, and we rejoice greatly in all that God has allowed us to be a part of in these past few years. We testify to His goodness, faithfulness, love, compassion, and abounding kindness. So many people have been transformed by His Word and His Spirit, and as we look ahead we are even more excited for what is to come. We have a greater sense of purpose, a sharper focus, a deeper love for this city/nation and its people, and for that we are so grateful! Our sensing is that God is calling us to put down roots here so that our impact would be deeper and greater.

With this, we are looking for more people who would like to partner with us! In order for our (growing) family to continue our ministry in a sustainable way, we are trusting that God will provide an additional \$1250 CAD of monthly support. No amount is too little: even \$5/month (*ex. sacrifice 2 coffees per month*) helps to allow us to keep investing and serving the Lord here long term! If you would like to join our team, we would love to talk with you! We have various ways you can give, and we'd be happy to help you through the process!



## GIVING

Pre-Authorized Payment   Credit Card   e-Transfer   Cheque



As our family is growing, so is our budget! If you are interested in knowing more about our needs or about becoming one of our monthly supporters, please feel free to contact us on either of our social media accounts or at [mattnickelmusic@gmail.com](mailto:mattnickelmusic@gmail.com) or [bonnie.jaclyn@gmail.com](mailto:bonnie.jaclyn@gmail.com)

## PRAYER POINTS

- Wisdom for the 52 in 520 initiative
- That God would provide the extra \$1250 monthly support
- Safety & wisdom with the base expansion & construction!
- More missionaries! (Luke 10:2)
- Wisdom in how to raise our daughter to love and serve the Lord.

Please check our website for more up-to-date prayer points.

[www.mattnickelmusic.weebly.com](http://www.mattnickelmusic.weebly.com)

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# EVIE'S EDITION

## VOL. 2

Hey there, I'm back! Welcome to my second newsletter! I'm so happy to share with you what I've been up to in the past couple of months! I've been spending a lot of time with mum, who's been very busy taking care of me and also teaching! Mum loves to teach, and she's had a few different opportunities to use her gift, including in DTS and at Grace International Academy (GIA).



I took a selfie while mum was teaching in the DTS

Mum LOVES DTS. She always talks about how she loves seeing the students go deeper in their relationship with God. I took a sneaky selfie while mum was teaching in the DTS. She taught 1 day about conflict resolution and also a full week on God's redemptive plan.

Mum needed some help with a devotional that she was sharing with the kids at Grace International Academy, the bilingual Christian school that our base runs. I pretended that I was Moses in the basket... you can see my acting skills in this picture here! That's all for now, see to you next time!



## EVIE'S MILESTONES

**October 2, 2023**

Received my Mexican Passport! 🇲🇽

**October 18, 2023**

Rolled onto my belly from my back for the first time! 🥰