

JOSHUA & AMANDA ALLRED

MÉRIDA, MEXICO



July/August 2026:

Dear church and friends,

Summer is now behind us and school is back in full swing. In July, 130 teenagers attended youth camp along with 85 adult workers. 17 young people made decisions for salvation, several of whom got baptized at camp before returning home!

In August, we all got back to school. Our ministry's elementary and middle school started its fourth year. What a blessing it is to see the children in the church grow and build their lives on a strong biblical foundation! Starting the school required a leap of faith four years ago and it has proven to be a financial challenge. But, we believe the payoff is well worth the investment! Please pray with us for the Lord to provide for this important ministry each and every year.

Seminary classes also started back in August. We have 37 students enrolled this year. Many of our students believe the Lord has called them to serve in full-time ministry including several who believe the Lord wants them to prepare for future mission work. Pablo Yam is one of our new students. We were especially excited about his enrollment because he is our first second-generation student! His parents, José & Marifer, were two of our very first seminary students. They graduated and planted the San José Tzal Baptist Church in 2012. Pablo is now following in his parents' footsteps. We're thrilled that our seminary is having a multi-generational impact!

Our school and seminary are both operating legally as ministries of the North Mérida Baptist Church, but as unaccredited institutions. We have made the decision to start the long process of seeking national accreditation. We have been assured that this will be a drawn-out and difficult process, but we believe it will be very beneficial to our students and increase our influence as a ministry. Please pray with us that the Lord would lead in every step, help us meet all legal requirements, and give us favor in the eyes of the officials who will have to approve all of our applications and paperwork.

More progress has been made on the new church building and there is still much more progress to be made! We are happy to report that the roofs have been completed on the auditorium and classrooms. My (Joshua's) parents have been visiting churches in the U.S. for a little over a year, raising funds for the project. They will be done traveling in December. We still do not have all the funds raised to complete the project. We will use the money we do have to finish the first floor and auditorium to the point we can move into the building and start using it, although it will still lack many finishing touches. As we save money going forward, we will add the second story and the finishing details. In 2027, we plan to have several mission teams down to help advance the work. We will rely on their help, our church members' giving, and further outside contributions to eventually finish out the project. We have spoken to some businessmen from supporting churches who make end-of-the-year charitable donations from their businesses for tax write-offs. As the end of this year approaches, if you own a business and plan to make a charitable donation, would you consider putting it towards this project? We certainly need your help!

Thank you for your consistent support of our ministry! As we face the ups and downs of ministry, your faithfulness keeps us encouraged to face the oncoming waves. We cherish each and every one of you and pray that the Lord will richly bless you as we work together for His glory!

Yours in Christ,
Joshua, Amanda, & the kids