

Fire + teething + another chapter = A Makidon Christmas. This past month has been an adventure. The school where Michael teaches caught on fire two weeks before the Christmas break, and his hallway was a total loss. Emma also started teething and crawling *forward*. If you missed that story, make sure you check out our blog (mmakidon.blogspot.com)! Finally, Michael finished the last research chapter of his dissertation. Now it's time for editing. "Sigh..." Actually, and quite sadly, that's probably his favorite part!



Emma

We promised in our last newsletter to update you on our financial status. We have officially launched into the double digits. We're excited to see the number climbing. *You've pledged 16% of what we need to raise monthly so far and our missions account has 20% of what we need to raise for our one-time costs such as language school.* Our launch date is still a little over a year away, but we need to be at 100% before we can join the team in Guatemala. *Please pray about making a monthly pledge.* Also, keep in mind, we're not just asking for money. By partnering with us, you are getting involved in the greatest movement of world history—the Great Commission. By partnering with us, you'll be a part of training leaders that will plant new churches all over the globe and counselors that will help restore those that have been broken. We'd love for you to come down and visit us in Guatemala once we're down there to see how God is at work.

If you would like more information about our future ministry plans or if you're just looking for a Bible study, visit our website. Michael is in the middle of an apologetics series on our blog entitled *Apologetics: What Am I Apologizing For?* He has been dealing with issues like whether we can trust that the New Testament is reliable and accurate, whether the church has been hiding gospels for centuries, the claim that Jesus was married, and more. Of course, January 18th's blog was on a spiritual lesson gleaned from Emma.

As we reflect upon the past year, we have so many things to be thankful for. We not only welcomed our first child into the world on May 5th, we were also accepted by CAM International as missionaries and asked by SETECA, the Seminary in Guatemala City, to join their ministry. We look forward to the coming year of fundraising, finishing a dissertation (Michael), and completing a Masters degree in counseling (Gina). We look forward to this year knowing that it will lead to our future ministry in Guatemala. Even though we are ready to go now, we know all things are in the Lord's timing. Please pray for the following:

- Pray that God would use the opportunities that we have to share our ministry with churches and individuals not only to raise the necessary funds for ministry but to minister as well.
- Pray that God would allow Michael to finish his dissertation this summer and Gina to finish her counseling classes as well.
- Pray that God would provide the necessary funds to leave for Guatemala.

We would also love to pray for you. Feel free to email us your prayer requests.

In Him,

Michael & Gina

Michael & Gina Makidon

p.s. We would love to share our vision for Guatemala at your church or small group. We will begin lining up dates for the summer soon. Call us or drop us an email. We'd love to hear from you!





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\$ _____ for Michael and Gina Makidon (085980) _____

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