God allowed us to end 2018 with a bang. On December 27, we held a 1-day marriage retreat for our missionaries and those in training. We had 29 couples and very good teaching by our pastor, Austin Gardner. The devil would love to destroy marriages and we pray God will keep the marriages strong, fruitful and faithful.

On December 28-29, we held the Our Generation Summit, an annual winter retreat where we challenge young people to give their lives to take the Gospel around the world. We had a great response and there were several young people and couples that made a bold commitment to be foreign missionaries. Please pray for those that surrendered. There is a great need for more laborers!

In November and December, I made two overseas trips. I first visited Argentina, where we were able to see two of our friends and missionaries, Patrick Henry and Jason King. I was also able to go back to the city where my family and I served for 8 years. The five churches and Bible college are faithfully continuing on and it was a blessing for me to spend some time with the pastors and encourage them in the ministries God has given them. One of the pastors is about to turn over his church to a man he has trained and wants to go to Northern Argentina to start a church. I’m very thankful for how these men are continuing to serve God faithfully, after these years that I have left. While there, the pastor of the first church we planted approached me about a need that I would like to share with my supporting churches. In all these years, they have not needed my help financially but this time it is something that is urgent and needs paid immediately. The church has some taxes and paperwork that they just found out needs to be paid. The approximate cost is going to be close to $1500.

The other trip I made was to Thailand. We held a regional meeting where we had many of VBM’s missionaries from all over Asia gather for a time to challenge, encourage and teach. We attended the church that our missionary, Philip Bassham, started and was blessed to see what God is doing there. Please pray for him as they prepare to go on furlough soon.

Three VBM missionaries recently started a church: Daniel Sparks in Chile, Will Hill in Japan and Miguel Sanabria in Colombia. Praise God for more Gospel-preaching churches that will spread the Good News, disciple new converts and train men for the ministry. What glorious news of the Gospel spreading around the world!

One of our missionaries, Kason Bloom, was carrying MP3 players with Bibles as he visited his brother in China. He was stopped and detained for four hours. Thankfully, he was released, but the MP3’s were kept in security.

Three new missionaries have left or will be leaving very soon for their fields at this time: Jesse Turpin to Indonesia, James Miyashita to Japan and Brady Van Winkle to Turkey. It is our desire that the Word of God is spread all over this world before our Savior’s soon return!