



Mission Haven Update – February 2023

MAKING CONNECTIONS: *Bridging language barriers*



Jihy & sons

In January, we welcomed Ny Ilo Jihy Raminoarinosy (Jihy) and her two young sons to Apartment 2-E. She has been a pastor of the Church of Jesus Christ in Madagascar since 2010. Jihy is enrolled in the Master of Theology (ThM) program at Columbia Theological Seminary (CTS) and hopes to enroll in the PhD program pending scholarship monies. When she returns to Madagascar, Jihy plans to lecture in the local theological seminary and to continue serving as a volunteer prison chaplain.

In February, we welcomed the Carhuachín couple to Apartment 2-A. César has been a PC(USA) mission co-worker in Colombia since 2013 and is serving at the invitation of the Presbyterian Church of Colombia. His wife, Dania, is from the Dominican Republic, and he is from Peru; they serve with ties to the Presbytery of Charlotte. They are currently on a PC(USA) Interpretation Assignment and will speak at various meetings and churches about their partnership work in Colombia. He is taking advantage of being near CTS to study in the library while in Decatur.



Dania & César

As part of our welcome to new residents, local volunteer Susan Adle introduced the Carhuachíns to the Clothes Closet. Between Susan’s high school Spanish and Dania’s fairly good English, they managed fine. Susan noted that Dania’s enthusiasm was contagious!

As a bonus, Susan introduced them to Jihy. Here’s a surprise—Jihy has a Masters degree in Spanish! Before her pastoral journey, she was a translator and taught Spanish. It was fun to witness as they all switched from speaking English to Spanish. Susan states, “I just wantd y’all to know that frequently volunteering can lift our spirits.”



P.S. Jihy shared that the international students are gathering for Sunday evening fellowship on the seminary campus! More connections!



Housing ~ Hospitality ~ Clothing ~ Prayer