

## GONZÁLEZ-BARNES



# Mercy González-Barnes

## REGIONAL

### LANGUAGES

Spanish  
English

### MINISTRY PRIORITY

Theological Education

### BIRTHDAY

9/23



### LOCATION

Iberoamerica and the Caribbean



### ABOUT

MERCY is a regional consultant in theological education and leadership development in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. Mercy teaches, mentors, and walks alongside men and women who are following God's call in their lives. She works with colleagues and local leaders to provide resources such as retreats

and workshops. Mercy is also part of a team of global servants who are collaborating with Palmer Seminary in an online master's in theological studies in Spanish. Learning using this medium makes higher education accessible to many people from countries in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. "I love to see the emotion and gratitude in the eyes of the students," she says. "They are truly thankful for this opportunity to stretch for the Kingdom of God. God is indeed doing a new thing."

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Celebrating our unity in Christ

## “ MINISTRY STORY

We had arrived in El Salvador, and we were setting up our space in the gymnasium at the Colegio Bautista de San Salvador. The school has proved itself to be a wonderful host. Different persons had arrived to help with set up, sound, and the school nurse came to help with temps and documentation. But the first day of a residency is always a little nerve-wracking. We are forming a community; we are creating a safe place to begin our journey together.

Each student presented themselves, and each person had their own story. This day, there was a heaviness in the room as one student was missing. He was the chaplain at the Colegio Bautista in Santa Ana and had fallen a few days before we arrived. At the hospital they had diagnosed a tumor, and the news had spread that he probably had cancer. We spent time with a shared grief—lifting up this community in pain.

Each time we begin a new cohort, we discover God's handiwork. We discover the stories and how those stories interact with each other. In the Christmas classic *It's a*

*Wonderful Life*, we learn how each small action can influence the world in immense ways. I am continuously surprised to see how each cohort reflects God's handiwork in unique ways. As each person is faithful and obedient to their call, they show the GOOD WORKS that God has prepared. I am in awe because God is doing so much more through our lives and this ministry. We are indeed “God's handiwork.”

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## PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the safety of each cohort/staff as some of the students are dealing with COVID-19.

Pray for the financial support for scholarships so that these persons can respond to this call to be theologically trained without a financial burden.

Pray for me and how you can partner in this life-changing ministry.

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## SCRIPTURE

*“For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”*

Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)