



## Mission Friends Leader Fun Facts and Prayer Requests August 2025

**MISSIONARY:** Osvaldo Lerma

**MISSIONS AREA:** US/Mexico Border Ministry

**CONCEPT AREA:** Self

### 5 Fun Facts about the Missionary

1. Osvaldo Lerma was in Royal Ambassadors (RA) as a boy and Vanessa Lerma has been involved with Mission Friends, Girls in Action (GA), and other missions organizations.
2. Mr. Lerma's favorite food is tacos.
3. While many people in Laredo, Texas, speak Spanish, those from different ethnic groups may have different terms for the same items. For example, each group may have a different word for diaper. It is a challenge for the Send Relief Ministry Center workers to know the terms each Spanish-speaking group may use for the same item.
4. A favorite Bible story of the Lerma family is Jesus feeding the multitudes.
5. Mr. Lerma plays the guitar.

### Prayer Requests

- Pray for Osvaldo and Vanessa Lerma as they prepare to open a new ministry building.
- Pray that God would protect the Lermas and give them wisdom, strength, and good health.
- Pray for God's protection over families in the areas around Laredo.
- Pray for Christians to help and care for children who need protection.
- Pray that churches would minister to families in their communities.

### Missions Area: Texas

Laredo, Texas, is located on the United States border with Mexico. The Rio Grande River separates Laredo on the US side from Nuevo Laredo on the Mexico side. Many people cross the bridges over the river for work, shopping, and entertainment, often waiting hours to cross. Approximately 95 percent of the population is Hispanic. At various times in its history, Laredo has belonged to Spain, France, Mexico, the Republic of Texas, its own republic, and the US. The city has become a blend of Mexican and American cultures.

Laredo is the largest and oldest port of entry between the US and Mexico. About 1,400 trucks cross the border at Laredo each day bringing goods to the US.

The southern Texas climate is hot and dry. In the summer, temperatures can hover around 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Mr. Lerma says the heat can make ministry difficult as volunteers try to adjust to being out in it.

Laredo has a high poverty rate, high unemployment, low educational opportunities, reduced access to health care, and other factors that are found in high poverty areas. Food insecurity is extremely high. The Send Relief Mission Center of Laredo seeks to help those affected by these issues. They are especially working to strengthen families and serve children who are at risk.