

April 20, 2007

Dear Friends,

In 1 Peter 2:6-7, we are reminded of the value of faith that is tried and tested. Peter exhorts, *"In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ"* (NAS).

For the past two months, these words have spoken into the circumstances of our lives here in Mexico more than we would like to admit. Put another way, it has been quite a rough ride!! A number of things have suddenly quit working or gone haywire. Difficult things have also crowded into our lives that we could never have anticipated. But we carry on - pressing into God, committed to moving forward - knowing that He is in control and that He has a purpose in it all. If the enemy thought we would give up, he has learned otherwise!! *But we certainly appreciate your prayers as we endeavor to press through these trials in a way that glorifies the Lord.*

Update on the Youth Center



The logistics have changed a bit since we first looked at this abandoned house and grounds on the main highway through Guaymas. We are now working more closely with the city government than anticipated, and have met several times with the city council. A small portion of the property will now be allocated to a training program for victims of domestic violence, and in return, the city is going to help us restore and repair the old building (although they have not specified as yet in what manner or how much they can help). At this time, we are waiting to sign the agreement with the city, after which we will be able to start working on the building!! Our meeting with the mayor has still not taken place, but we

hear that he remains anxious to meet with us and is very excited about our plans for the youth center. We are hoping for an opening date of late August for the center - to coincide with the beginning of the new school year.

Ongoing Ministry to Youth

We continue to meet with a group of youth every Saturday for teaching and discipleship. We also had a youth get-together at our house the end of February. It was so much fun for both us and the kids!! There were 19 young people associated with the Miramar church who came for hamburgers, hotdogs and a night of fun things we planned to help them get to know each other (and us get to know them) better. We feel that a number of these young people will end up as young leaders at the



youth center, which is very exciting to us!! This **Saturday, April 21st**, we have a beach party planned for the youth that will include volleyball, other games and races, a bonfire, food, some teaching and a time to get real and open hearts to one another and to the Lord.

Scholarships Needed for Youth Conference

A number of young people from this area want to attend the Vino Nuevo Christian youth conference in Jaurez, Chihuahua **in July**, but are seriously lacking the funds. There are several buses being chartered from Guaymas to take youth to this conference, but the cost is *more than \$200 USD* per person for the bus, motels, food and registration. (For these kids, this is a huge amount of money.) We went to this conference last year with a group of young people and it was phenomenal!! They were challenged very directly and powerfully, and there was a huge response to the Lord among the youth who went. We want to help as many kids go this year as possible. **WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER SPONSORING A YOUNG PERSON TO ATTEND THIS CONFERENCE???**

Other Ministry Out and About



Outside of the ministry to youth and Dave's music ministry on Sundays, we haven't been doing quite as much visible ministry the past few months. We did, however minister at a church in colonia San Vicente in February, and again on Easter Sunday at Maranatha church in Independencia. Dave shared the message (he is preaching in Spanish now!!!), Dee shared a prophetic word for the congregation, and we both prayed for those who came up for ministry. We are also planning to go out to the pueblo of Ortiz **on May 5th** with pastors Ernesto and Marcela to minister and help with their church plant there. Please pray for this endeavor, as Ortiz is a hotbed of prostitution, drugs, gun-running, and witchcraft. We know God wants to move there in a powerful way!

English Teacher Settled In

Helen, the young woman from northern England who came to teach English, is settled in now with an apartment, a cell phone, a car and a job teaching English at a place called "The American Academy", where she started about a month ago! She hopes to soon start a free class one day a week for the people we are working with here who want to learn English, including a number of pastors. Later, she has said she would like to help out at the youth center and perhaps teach an English class there also.

Youth Center Furnishings

The furnishings donated for the youth center are still stored in Los Alamos, NM. Our attempts to work out a way to get them down here to Mexico have thus far come to naught. One couple was able to borrow a trailer, but was unable to find a vehicle to borrow that would pull it. If the two of us borrow a trailer in NM, then we have no way to get the trailer back there without making another 1400 mile trip. Rented trailers (like U-haul) cannot be taken across the border. **IF YOU ARE THINKING ABOUT COMING DOWN TO VISIT OR BRINGING A TEAM BEFORE THE END OF AUGUST, WOULD YOU PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US WITH THIS NEED??** Even getting the furnishings as far as a storage unit in Nogales, AZ would be a big help! Then we could bring them the rest of the way little by little.

Compañías – March and April

Our ministerial alliance here in Guaymas sponsored a *compañía* in March which featured a healing ministry from the states. We helped with it by being part of the intercessory prayer team, giving rides and translating (Dave) during street ministry. There were a lot of healings and many people gave their hearts to the Lord for the first time! But there was more ... A Mexican missionary named Bob came with the team from the states to help translate and facilitate. At the end, he told Dave that “this town is destined for revival” – that he has been ministering in Mexico for 22 years and has *never* before seen this kind of unity among the pastors! When Dave shared this with pastor Martín, he started crying!! God is doing something here, and we are so privileged to be part of it.

Right now, we are preparing for another *compañía* next week. This one will feature a minister from Guatemala and one from Mexico City. The two of us have been part of the intercessory team which has been meeting weekly for several months to intercede for this campaign and for the city. Lifeline Ministries has also donated funds to help with the costs of this event. It will be held every evening from **Tues, April 24 – Sat, April 28th** in the city plaza. On the last day (Saturday), a ‘March for Jesus’ type of thing is planned through a part of the city to the Plaza where the *compañía* is being held. It will be a busy week next week for all of us, but we are excited and expectant about what God is going to do!!



As you know we had been meeting with another couple to pray for the city each week for the past year. But now, we believe, others have caught the vision! So we plan to continue with this prayer for the city, and include others who may want to join with us. We believe that this is a “kairos” time for Guaymas - we are on the brink of God doing something big here, and we want to keep pressing in until we see the fulfillment of it!!

Prayer Focus

- The need here for a move of the Holy Spirit, and a breaking through of God on our behalf to set people free and open blind eyes to Him. Our city is overwhelmed with drug addiction, alcoholism, prostitution, and poverty - fueled by other issues like abandonment and hopelessness. People need Jesus so badly, but they don't know that *He* is what will make the difference in their lives!
- The young people of this city and the young people we are working with ... We believe that a strong personal relationship with Jesus is the answer to change in individual lives and in this country. It's obvious that the unsaved don't know Him, but great numbers of the “church kids” don't either.
- The youth center and the contract with the city government – right now we are still waiting on the city, and need the Lord to cut through the bureaucracy and red tape, so that we can begin to move forward again and start work on the building.

- The Lord is working in the life of our Spanish teacher, Dolores, (a Catholic) right now in such a powerful way that she feels completely off balance, like her life is turned upside down and she doesn't know what is really what anymore. We are praying that she will persevere until the Lord is able to do what He wants to do in her, and that she will come out the other side knowing Him in a deeper way. This is a woman of great influence and we believe that the enemy is fighting hard to keep her blinded to the fullness of God's plan and purposes for her life.
- Becky, the daughter of a friend here, is the same age as Dee and is undergoing tests for cancer. Becky does not know the Lord but she knows we are praying for her. This has shaken the whole family up, and they could all really use our prayers at this time. It is an opportunity for the Lord to touch their hearts in a special way.
- Helen, the young woman here teaching English, needs Christian friends with whom she can communicate (she doesn't speak much Spanish) and to whom she can relate. Most folks here her age have a spouse and family. She remains a bit lonely and is still finding the adjustment to another culture stressful at times.
- The pastors we are working together with in Guaymas/Empalme: Jose Alfredo & Maria, Javier & Norma, Regina, Ernesto & Marcela, Martin & Hortencia, Job & Blanca, Jose & Diana, Rodolfo & Rosa, Juan & Rosi, Tito & Judy, Verna, Frank & Elena, Tony & Margarita, Ramón & Laura, Dario & Maria Antonieta, Rafael, Armando, Miguel and Delfin.
- Our health and some other things that have arisen which need God's intervention.

Thank you again so much for your prayers on our behalf, and for your intercession on behalf of the people of Guaymas and this precious nation of Mexico. We love you and appreciate you more than we can communicate in words!! Thank you for your care and love poured out on us, for your support and encouragement, and for your friendship.

We continue to keep you in our prayers, and take your needs (those we are aware of) before the Lord's throne of grace. May He continue to pour out richly in each of your lives of all that He is and all that He has for you as His children and heirs. We rejoice today that we serve a RISEN Lord, who is ALIVE and intimately involved in each of our lives – if we will but allow Him to be. Jesus is knocking on the door of each of our hearts fresh each day, and is waiting for us to come to Him in humility, brokenness and surrender. The desire of our hearts is to answer that knock at the door. How about you?

With affection,

Dave and *Dee*

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