

DEAR FRIENDS,

Sept. 28, 2009

Greetings from Guaymas!!! Psalm 71:8 declares, "Let my mouth be filled with Your praise and with Your glory all the day." The Hebrew word translated as filled here presents a picture of being

filled to the brim and thoroughly saturated ... like pressure-treated wood for those of you familiar with it. The psalmist in this case was an old man, (we're not told who exactly), one who was experiencing his share

of troubles. But still, this was the cry of his heart in the midst of it all. We want it to be our hearts' cry also, that the Lord might continue to be praised and glorified in every circumstance we face.

Hurricane Jimena - The Latest!

Because we sent out a couple of updates already, we will be brief. Thank you all for your prayers!! The military has been giving out boxes of basic necessities in the poorer colonias the past few weeks, and the folks who lost everything (like those in the area of San Jose de Guaymas where the water was over 11 feet deep) will be getting some recompense from the local/state government, we've heard. It will be the equivalent of about \$3,000 USD per family. It's not great, but it is better than nothing. Also, Americans from areas near the border, like Tucson, have been running supplies and humanitarian aid down to this hard-hit area with a nod from the Mexican customs agents at the border. They are allowing all the truckloads of aid to pass freely without paying duty, which has been a blessing for many here. Local churches have been collecting resources and personal items for those most affected also. Finally, the city has repaired the water lines and our side of the city now has water. Please

continue to keep the area in your prayers, however, as there are still many problems facing the residents here. One is raw sewage everywhere (from broken pipes), breeding mosquitoes. So far, two people have died of the hemorrhagic form of Dengue Fever, one an 11 year old boy just up the road from us. But we praise God for all the answers to prayer that we have seen and the willingness of folks to pitch in and help out their neighbors. His presence has been truly precious here in Guaymas!!



September marked the one year anniversary of *¡Conéctate!*, and since we moved this monthly youth event over to the outdoor courtyard of the youth center in May, the anointing has increased five-fold! More kids are coming (we don't have enough chairs anymore – a good problem to have!!) and the ones who come are getting more and more excited about the Lord. At various *compañías* we've been involved in since the spring, we've had tons of kids we didn't know run up to us and give us big hugs, jabbering away about *¡Conéctate!* and what a difference it is making in their lives. What an answer to our prayers!

At the May event, we decided to leave it free-flowing, with little structure, so that the Holy Spirit would do whatever He wanted to do.

This was something we knew would be very different and probably uncomfortable for many of the kids,



but they participated enthusiastically and it was probably the best one yet!! Increasingly, the kids are reluctant to leave afterwards, and are hanging around to visit with one another while we tear down equipment. In fact, we are seeing more and more that the goals for ¡Conéctate! are being fulfilled – kids are connecting with God in a deeper way, being ministered to, healed and set free, connecting with one another and becoming united

in their pursuit of the Lord, more are stepping out in areas of giftings/callings and growing in leadership, and Jesus is being glorified on a regular basis in the city center!!

In July, there was a TV reporter and cameraman from a new local Christian cable program, visiting the youth event and filming what was happening. They interviewed a number of

the kids and also interviewed us about the goals of ¡Conéctate! This was very exciting for us and all of the young people, as you can well imagine!

We now have a third youth worship band rotating in to lead worship at ¡Conéctate!, which takes some load off the other two. But the worship bands are starting to mix together as some as the kids

get to know each other, which is awesome. There are now teenagers coming to us and saying they have a burden to pray for

this youth event also, and that they are encouraging other young people to commit to cover it in prayer. So lots of

good things are happening and we praise God for His abundant mercy and faithfulness to work in the lives of these young men and women!!



Youth Center Update



Since our last newsletter, we have had a work day with young people at the center and Dave has worked over there as much as he could stand in the intense heat. Also, the local ministerial alliance has started using the big classroom (the only mostly-finished room) for their monthly meetings, which is more work for us but we are glad to help. We had a break-in at the youth center in May that did a lot of damage. It's taken us most of the summer just to repair

things and get it back to where it was before the break-in occurred. There were a number of items stolen which had to be replaced also. Then we got flooded by the recent hurricane, which created a big mess. But we are finally back on track and moving ahead again!! We have a list of things that still need to be done before it can open to the public, but at least this list fits on one page now!! We are hoping and praying that we will be able to open it before 2010 arrives.

Miscellaneous News

► We've ministered in a couple of new churches in the past few months. One was a church with a youth group of about 40 kids. What a fun night!! The other was a new church plant in Empalme that still meets outdoors. We helped the new pastors set up in their dirt lot and waited for people to come in the blazing afternoon/early evening sun with no shade, no water and no bathrooms. We were there about 5 hours. It was a precious way to spend our 29th wedding anniversary – helping out new pastors and giving what could to some very needy people.

► Our area had another Transformaciones parade/rally in May, which was involved a fair number of churches from the Guaymas/Empalme/Valley area. This



year, the evening rally was held at the local soccer field instead of the stadium. It was a bit of a stretch at first because the sewer smell was so strong there that many people were holding rags over their noses, but by the end no one noticed because the presence of the Lord overshadowed everything else! People were dropping like flies when the power of God hit them during the ministry time. Some of the people we



prayed for that night were so very precious, and we were left touched and weeping as we felt the Father's heart for these folks!

► The Lord opened a way for us to hook together a young Christian woman who works with disabled kids and some folks in San Carlos who have horses and are interested in starting some horse therapy for the disabled. We were excited to help facilitate the opportunity for these disabled children. While this concept is nothing new in the states, there isn't anything like that here in the Guaymas area of which we are aware.

► We've been able to share resources, computers and musical instruments with people over the spring and summer, which we are always glad to be able to do! Dave is becoming known as an IT specialist of sorts among other missionaries here who call for help when they have computer problems. He is our IT specialist, too, and we have had some doozy problems and viruses to deal with in recent months! One nasty virus in particular crept in through the USB flash drive of a young man who asked us to share a video presentation at ¡Conectate! and it took days to finally track it down and eliminate it.

► More opportunities to share the Lord have thrilled us over these past few months, especially sharing more with two people very close to our hearts – our ex-Spanish teacher, Loli, and the owner of the youth center facility, Tina. We were able to pray with both of them and Loli is now attending a church in San Carlos!

► The local pastors have gotten together and tasked Dave to start a school of music ministry for the city. This is, of course, something very dear to his heart, and it is something he is praying about. Most likely, it will be something he goes ahead with after the youth center is finally open, and he will probably need to use the big classroom at the YC for this purpose several nights a week, since there is a dearth of available places to do something like this in Guaymas. What an exciting development!!

► We will be conducting the wedding (together) in both English and Spanish for our young British friend, Helen, who is marrying a really sweet Mexican guy named Oscar in December. We



Oscar & Helen

have also begun meeting weekly for pre-marital counseling with the two of them. We've been asked to be Padrinos (sort of like godparents) for another young couple (both Mexican) in their December wedding as well. This is such an honor and quite unexpected, since we are not only non-family but also American. It looks like December is going to be a busy month!

The Mountain Christian Fellowship Ministry Team

In June, we hosted a missions team of 21 people from Mountain Christian Fellowship in Medford, Oregon. The team was composed of 7 families, so there were a number of children who came as part of the team, from elementary age to high school kids. The children all had an important part to play in



the ministry, which was a VBS-like ministry held in four different locations around the area. One of the girls wrote us an email afterwards and shared that her heart has been radically changed by being a part of this team and coming to Mexico. We love to get emails like this! Short-term missions trips are not only about touching the lives of people here, but also about impacting the lives of the people who come. We want each one to go home changed in some eternal way, never to be the same again!!



In the four areas (2 poorer colonias in Guaymas, an ejido just outside of Guaymas and the Guadalupe de Guaymas work camp

in the valley), the team played group games with the children (like parachute games, tug of war, volleyball, bat races, etc.), helped them make a craft to take home with them, led songs, shared a message and a drama, gave out some gifts and loved on the kids and prayed for them.

We also made sure there were refreshments for the children, either supplied by us or by the hosts from the community. It was a precious time for all and a tremendous blessing to all of



these children!! The pastor of the small church at the workcamp was overcome with tears of joy as he shared with members of the team the impact they had on the families that live there. They were overwhelmed that a team of people would sacrifice so much and travel so far in a schoolbus without air conditioning just to spend time with their children.

The adults from the MCF team also worked along with Dave to put a roof on the house of hard-working woman we know whose husband is an alcoholic and

is seldom home. The Mountain Christian Fellowship team also supplied all the materials for the job. This woman loves the Lord



and her kids all know him, but because she is the breadwinner for the family, it is always a struggle to make any headway. They have lived in a very small part of their home for years, the only part that was covered, because the whole back part was never roofed. The MCF team worked hard while they were here to get the rest of the house roofed for this lovely family. They did a fantastic job, too. After Hurricane Jimena, we were excited to hear that the roof endured!!

We want to DEARLY THANK all of you from MCF who made untold sacrifices to come in June, and assure you that YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE!!



Shoebox Project - A Need

There may be a need for an individual, couple or team to bring down the Christmas Shoeboxes and stuffed animals to Guaymas this year. This will be the 4th year we've been able to bless the neediest children of the area in this manner and *the need is even greater this year because of the devastation wrought by Hurricane Jimena!!* So far, we don't know of anyone who can definitely bring the

boxes and stuffed animals down, and this year the two of us are committed all of December and



January with various things which will not allow us opportunity to make a trip

to New Mexico and back. The boxes will be stored in New Mexico after they are collected the end of November.

So, if you live anywhere close (AZ, CO, TX), would you please pray about this need and whether you might be able to help get these items to Guaymas, or even to the Nogales border area, either before or after Christmas? Thank you so much!!





...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me. (Mat. 25:40)

Closing Thoughts

Our hearts are always touched and filled with gratitude when we think of the wonderful friends and family we have scattered across three nations (and Hong Kong, Peter!). We endeavor to keep you all in our prayers and ask Him to work in your hearts and lives exceeding abundantly beyond all that you could ask or think (Ephesians 3:18). Most of the time we human beings don't even know what we need, but the Lord certainly does! THANK YOU all so much for your continued prayers for us and for the people here, and for the support you offer us in so many different ways!! THANK YOU for coming along side and working with us to share the love and power of our mighty God here in Sonora, and for helping to change the destiny of a nation ... one heart at a time.

We love you dearly,

 and 

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