

guaymas, SONORA

"Releasing the Church in His power, touching the world with His Love"

October 11, 2006

****Important note: For those working on Christmas shoeboxes in New Mexico, the deadline has been moved back to November 25th. Thanks for your understanding!!!****

Dear Friends,

Saludos from Mexico! We have some very interesting things to report in this newsletter, so we hope that you will read it in its entirety!! There are some **BIG** things ahead and we will need some **BIG** miracles in order to see these things become a reality. Thankfully, we serve a **BIG** God who answers prayer in a **BIG** way! Thank you for standing with us as friends and partners in the work of the Kingdom, as we seek to simply be obedient to the One who called us.

A Vision to Reach the Youth of Guaymas

We have been praying this last year about God's primary purpose for us here in Sonora, MX and for clear direction and strategy. In recent months, He has answered this prayer, bringing clarity of vision and a sense that it is *now* His timing to move forward. We still can't speak Spanish all that well, but we are trusting Him to go before us, bringing the grace and favor that we need! To make a very long and involved story short, we believe the Lord is calling us to reach out to the youth of this city and impact this generation.

We still have a heart to encourage and support the pastors in various ways, to continue to work towards unity in the Body of Christ, and to stir passionate intercession for the city, the region and nation. We feel we should continue with the Christmas shoebox project in the years to come as well. *But the Lord has also given us a clear vision for a citywide youth center for the young people of Guaymas and a regular youth event focused on ministry to this overlooked and undervalued segment of the population.* We are convinced that the move of the Holy Spirit that the Lord brought us here to foster will largely happen through the young people and others who are not locked into traditional mindsets or bound by religious thinking. We feel the Lord is calling us to **REACH** these young people and help to **RELEASE** them into the plan and destiny that He has for their lives.



We envision a youth center which will (1) meet a practical need here, as there is nothing at all for the young people in this city of 250,000; (2) be a safe place for young people to hang with their friends, have fun and talk - with a pool table, foosball table, ping pong, board games, music, chat areas with comfortable seating, a

snack bar with tables & chairs; several computers to do homework on, and even perhaps a “graffiti wall” (monitored, of course) to inspire creativity and keep the graffiti off the streets; (3) **bring vision for something more** than the cycle of desolation and devastation which is so often a part of Mexican life - offering things through the center like educational workshops, English classes, tutoring, days out (field trips), counseling, Bible studies, possibly even art/music workshops; (4) be a “**fishing pond**” to get to know the kids and give them an opportunity to get to know us, so that Jesus can be shared *through relationship*; (5) **provide leadership training opportunities and experience** for older Christian teens from different churches, as they help in the operation of the center and reaching out to their peers.



We already have a number of local people who have expressed an interest in helping with the youth center in various ways - as youth leaders, in leading workshops, providing baked goods for the snack bar, etc. We are looking for a building to rent that is in the city center rather than one of the colonias (which is important for different reasons). But so far, the only suitable one we have found is \$2,000 per month (USD) for one floor only - and the landlord will need to renovate before it would be usable (see

photo attached). There is another *possible* building, but we have not looked at it yet, so we do not know if it is similarly suitable. We hear that it rents for \$1500/month.

Unlike a church, we will have no income from tithes and offerings to support the center. Also, we were shocked when we found out what commercial rents are here!! Utilities are more expensive here than in the United States, compounding the situation. But we know that God knew all of this before He asked us to do this, so He must have a plan for bringing the provision. *We humbly ask if you would pray about whether the Lord's plan may include you in some way. Thank you for weighing this with open hearts. Also, if you know of any churches that might consider supporting this project, would you please share with them about us?*

The other part of the vision the Lord has given us involves an ongoing ministry event for young people. It would focus on worship and challenging the kids to know/press into God in a deeper way, with emphasis on and room made for a lot of personal ministry. We envision training ministry teams that can minister under the anointing and guidance of the Holy Spirit, to release the love and power of our mighty God in a mighty way! This event could easily unfold into something more, but this is all the Lord has spoken to us about so far.

Website Update

It's up!! Though we still have some updating to do, a lot of pages aren't finished yet, and Dave wants to add more flashy gadgets, our site is finally posted. Check it out at www.lifeline-ministries.net and let us know what you think!!!

God's Faithfulness in the UK

Our trip to England in September went very well. Thank you all for your prayers! As some of you already know, we are now the proud grandparents of Hayley Elizabeth Griffith! Lauren managed to hold off going into labor until a few days after we arrived, so we were able to not only be there for the birth, but ended up driving to the hospital with Lauren and Gareth when she was in labor. We are so touched and thankful that we were able to be part of it all!!



Justin and his girlfriend, Sarah, came up from Wales for two weeks, so we got to spend some quality time with them also. He proposed to her during our visit, and she said yes ... so it looks like we are returning next summer (or fall) for another wedding!

We are grateful to the Lord that the ministry in various locales went really well also. The messages He had put on our hearts were well received, we felt. We were able to spend time with several pastors and leaders, along with quite a few other people, strengthening friendships and relationships with some *very* precious folks!! God is so good!



Young British Woman Heading to Guaymas

While we were in England, we met with a young woman named Helen Wherrett, whom we have known for many years, about her plans to join us in Guaymas to teach English for six months. She may stay for up to a year if she can work out the necessary visas. Helen has received training and certification to teach English as a Second Language in any country. We are expecting her to arrive sometime in January, and look forward to it with much excitement and anticipation. Your prayers for her as she ties up loose ends, and makes preparation to come here, are much appreciated!!

Progress in Pastoral Unity and Strategic Prayer

Some of you may remember that we were showing the Transformations video to pastors and others in our home during the summer, hoping to bring a vision of what God can do here to transform our city and region. The president of the Ministerial Alliance recently decided to show this video for the ministers in the alliance, following it with several hours of intercession for the city. While the turnout was smaller than we'd hoped, it was a still a positive step! And we felt there was significant breakthrough in terms of unity among the pastors and leaders during this time together.

We are continuing to meet with a few other key people to pray over the city on a weekly basis. *Last week, we asked them what they thought God's redemptive purpose for Guaymas was and they answered that they believe it is to raise up and send out young people as missionaries. Specifically, they have felt that*

there would be missionaries sent from here to Europe, and a connection between this city and Europe. Isn't it interesting, then, that we spent 6 years in Europe, still have a strong connection there, and that a young woman from England is making plans to move here in the next few months????!???

Prayer Requests

- ❖ For a move of the Holy Spirit in this region, that God would fill this place with His presence, His glory and His power, that Jesus would be revealed in a fresh way.
- ❖ For the young people of this city and surrounding area. Everywhere we go, there are children and young people overflowing the sidewalks and from every building! We feel the passion of God's heart to reach these young people and see the hearts of the children turned to their heavenly Father. Please pray that the Sovereign Lord would touch their hearts and lives, and that His Spirit would move upon them in a powerful way.
- ❖ For the building and other provision needed for the youth center, along with favor with potential landlords and city officials.
- ❖ For more of His grace in our lives personally, as well as more of God's wisdom, strength, protection, revelation, direction, faith, and discernment. We are also praying for divine appointments, connections and favor with the people here.

THANK YOU once again, precious friends, for your love and support. We thank God for you each day, continually amazed by His goodness and blessing. We certainly don't deserve it!! But in the strength of it, we press on toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Phil 3:13-14), determined to make our lives count and to be obedient to His leading regardless of the cost. May the Lord bless and keep you in every way, guiding you with His hand firmly upon your lives and ministries.

We love you dearly,

Dave and Dee

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