

Sending our love, prayers, & wishes for an exceedingly joyous Christmas!!!

DEAR FRIENDS,

Merry Christmas from Mexico!!! You are all in our thoughts and prayers this Christmas season, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our precious Savior. His coming was the Father's plan from before the creation of the world!!! (See 1 Peter 1:20, Ephesians 1:4 and Rev 13:8 in KJV, NIV, NKJV.) His birth was the Father's plan to redeem us by sending His spotless Lamb to pay the penalty for our sin. And so it's only through Him that we can be restored to fellowship with the

Father (John 14:6). For many, Christmas has become simply one of many holidays and is centered on the giving and receiving of gifts. But those who have a personal relationship with the risen Jesus know that, not only is He what Christmas is all about, but He is also the best gift of all!!! Yet knowing about the gift and receiving the gift are two different things. This Christmas, are you sure you have you received

the best gift of all? If not, we encourage you to invite Him into your heart and life! He is waiting at the door of your heart, arms open wide, eager to shower you with His love, His mercy and His abundant grace.

Dec. 18, 2009



Short News Bytes

Dave has been slowly updating the Lifeline website through the summer and fall. Most of His time has gone into learning a new way to develop website pages so that he can more easily maintain the site and at least keep the photos current. He is still in the "learning curve" because it's quite steep, so to date there are no changes to the photo gallery. However, he has updated and changed a few other things. You can check it out to see what's new at www.lifeline-ministries.net.

A bilingual friend here named Eli (pronounced Ellie) has offered to start translating Dee's first book, *From Bondage to Blessing*, into Spanish. She approached us about it because she read the book and now has a list of friends who want to read it, but who will need it in Spanish. We are quite excited by her interest and hope that she will be able to follow through in her desire to do the translation work in coming months!

In late September we hosted a prayer night at our house for a group of about 15 youth from around the city to intercede for ¡Conéctate! and for Guaymas. We cooked hotdogs on the grill and had a precious time of fellowship and intercession together. At the end, we all prayed for each one individually, and commissioned them to step out and begin to walk in their gifting and callings. Several of the young people began to prophesy, and it was a powerful and moving time!



More News Bytes

HEARTFELT THANKS to some friends in Texas who have purchased an enclosed trailer for the ministry, so that chairs and sound equipment can be hauled around the area more easily and more securely. Also, a BIG THANKS to a couple in England and another in Las Cruces, NM for funds this year towards folding chairs and sturdy, plastic folding tables ... AND to a church in Childress, TX for securing a large number of used folding chairs for us, which will be brought down in January ... AND to a precious gal up in Los Alamos, NM whose special gift helped us to get a new fridge this summer when the old one (we figured it was at least

15 years old) died suddenly and left us in the lurch.

We had the privilege of serving as Padrinos for a precious couple whose wedding was December 5th. For their wedding, Dave did the special music and also handled the sound system for the reception. We have also been doing weekly pre-marital counseling with Helen (British) and Oscar (Mexican), since early October. We'll be conducting their wedding on December 27th. Dave's also helping to make the 16 table decorations for their reception!! Along with weddings, we will also be Padrinos for a young lady very special

to our hearts whose Quinceañera will be on the 22nd. December has been crazy!!!

The city government here in Guaymas decided recently to do an unscheduled inspection of city buses (which are all privately owned) for the first time in the four years we have been here. 36 buses were deemed too dangerous to be on the road and removed from service, and 11 bus drivers were arrested for operating their buses under the influence of drugs or alcohol. We have said many times that the worst drivers in Guaymas are those driving the buses. Now we know why!!

Youth Center Update

Most of the work at the youth center in recent months has focused on repairing the collapsing exterior walls, which began crumbling after Hurricane Jimena in September. We were able to hire a man to do this work who had lost everything in the hurricane, and paid him more than the usual rate, so it helped both of us!! Because none of us could locate a reliable helper, Dave was elected by default, mixing and lifting buckets of concrete up to Salvador on the wall. Not the best idea for a man in his mid-50's who has had two back surgeries! But the Lord protected him and he came out of this experience without any added back problems, thankfully. When Dave and Salvador



finished, they tried to guess how long it would take the local grafiti artists to discover the new

canvas. Within two days, the beautiful new walls were covered with grafiti. Dave was heard to lament,

"Gee, I thought they would at least wait until the weekend!" Another thing we had to take care of at the youth center in recent months was replacing the new alarm system we had put in after the break-in earlier in the summer. The rain from hurricane Jimena leaked into the control panel, so we had to buy another one and dedicate time to installing it. We held a contest this fall among the young people for a name and logo for the youth center, but didn't have much of a response - even with offering a cash prize to the winner! We are still soliciting entries, however, and hope to come up with a youth inspired name and logo soon.



Intercession for Guaymas and Sonora

Some of the pastors who are part of our local ministerial alliance mentioned in the October meeting that they think we are having “revival” here. Although, we would not go so far as to use this term for what is happening, we do feel that the Lord is beginning to move ever so gently to bring greater life to this region.

We’ve heard that some churches in Hermosillo are having services that continue on through the afternoon on Sundays and until 1 or 2am sometimes because the Holy Spirit is moving in such a precious way. Here in Guaymas, the anointing at the youth events has been steadily growing and it seems like the youth have been pressing into God more fervently since last spring. The time of prayer we had together in the last alliance meeting with the local pastors (Dec. 4th) was definitely the most powerful we have experienced to date. We understand that there were still pastors operating in abject legalism here as recently as a few years ago, teaching, for example, that it was a sin to even speak with someone from a different denomination ... but now we are seeing more and more citywide events involving the entire Body of Christ and a precious level of unity building among the churches in the city. We now have a ministerial alliance (strengthening ever so slowly) made up of pastors and leaders from many backgrounds, different denominations and independent groups, who are praying for, supporting one another and linking together to reach the area with God’s love and saving grace. Things have come a long way in recent years and, truly, some lovely things are happening!!

At the same time, attacks have come concurrently from the kingdom of darkness to try to neutralize what God is doing. For example, two new casinos have sprung up in the last 3 months to lure the unsuspecting into greater financial bondage. We also had our first drug cartel-type murder here last month – a state investigator with the Federales and his secretary were killed in downtown Guaymas, on the main shopping street, in broad daylight, by automatic weapon fire from several cars that pulled up close and specifically targeted them. We understand that there were over 40 bullets fired. These are just symptoms of a malignancy taking root, examples of how the level of spiritual warfare here has cranked up a notch in recent months. And the Lord has spoken some things to our hearts which indicate that things may get much worse

before they get better unless we, the Church, awaken and take a stand in prayer.



We value your intercession on behalf of this city/region more than we can say. Meanwhile, we continue to meet weekly with our dear friends, Melina and Melchor (see photo), to pray and intercede for this place and these people, as we have been doing for over 3 years now. We continue to make interces-



sion for the city a regular part of what happens with the youth in ¡Conéctate! as well. We knew when the Lord told us to come to Guaymas that He wanted to move here in a powerful way. We continue to stand in faith, believing that He will bring it to pass!

Here are just a few things you can join with us in prayer concerning:

- ☞ For unity and kingdom thinking among the Body of Christ in this city, region and nation; for the Holy Spirit to be the glue that holds us together and builds us as living stones into a holy habitation for Himself.
- ☞ For a move of God’s Spirit here that will come in like a flood and blast away all the debilitating traditions of men, touching hearts and lives in a powerful way with the love and life of our Almighty God.
- ☞ For the young people, that the Lord would raise up a fearless generation of young people, sold-out and consecrated to Him, willing to lay down their lives for Him and follow His leading in every area of their lives.
- ☞ For the Sovereign Lord to remove blinders, pull down the walls that separate people from Him, pour out His presence and reveal Himself to the saved and to the lost.
- ☞ Finally, for our health to stay strong – we have been battling migraines (Dave) and UTI’s (both of us) this year, which tend to leave us sleepless, weak and lethargic.

¡Conéctate! Update

Most of the youth events since our last newsletter in September have gone extremely well, with the Lord moving in a very powerful way upon the hearts and lives of the young people. Here are just a few photos from October and November:



The December *¡Conéctate!*, however, was a real battle, probably because it was the weekend of the big celebration of the Virgin of Guadalupe (which we had overlooked). Since the celebration is steeped in idolatry, it opens the door for the demonic

to flood the area and really cause a ruckus! And what a ruckus we had! Among other things, Dee's car had a window smashed during the event and the thieves stole several hundred dollars worth of stuff as well as vandalizing it. Our insurance will, unfortunately, cover

very little of the damage and none of the loss. (This is the 2nd time we have been robbed in seven months.) *¡Conéctate!* will be taking a break in January, but will resume again in February. Please continue to keep this event in your prayers!!! It is making a difference!!!



Christmas Shoebox Project Update

A team from Childress, TX is bringing down the Christmas shoeboxes and stuffed animals collected in NM and TX again this year. They will arrive January 12th for a week of missions work in addition to ministering to children during the shoebox distribution. We have arranged to do the distribution and ministry together with one of the local churches at the Guadalupe de Guaymas work camp in the valley this year where there are over 250 children ages 12 and under. It will be a blending of Americans and

Mexicans, reaching out to touch these very needy children with the love of Jesus. We are very excited about what the Lord has in store for all of us!! THANK YOU folks from Childress for your help! We are looking forward to seeing you so much!! And THANK YOU to Tom Crenshaw for being the stateside coordinator for the Shoebox Project this year and to Glory Christian Fellowship, Grace Vineyard Fellowship and Trinity Worship Center for making this blessing possible for so many children again this year!!

A Final Word

We send our love to you all and pray that you have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!! May the Lord uphold you with His right arm, may He strengthen and establish you in Him, may He fill you with all that He has and all that He is, and may He lead you into new dimensions of living in His kingdom over the course of approaching new year. *Thank you again so much for your support and prayers during 2009!!*

We love you dearly,

 and 



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