



Dave and Dee Alei
Ambassadors for Jesus Christ

guaymas, SONORA

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

FEBRUARY 11, 2007

Dear Friends,

We often pray for others from Ephesians 3:20, asking the Lord to do exceeding abundantly in their lives beyond all that they could ask or think. Well, as we have been praying this for others, He has been pouring His grace out upon us, and doing this very thing in our own lives and ministry! We love Mexico and the people we are working with more than we ever thought possible, and we have watched the Lord bring grace and favor beyond what we could have ever hoped. He is going before us here and making a way *despite* our age, lack of resources and inability to speak the language well. **What a faithful God we serve!!** We hit the ground running when we returned to Mexico in early January, with seeds sown previously suddenly bearing fruit. **THIS NEWSLETTER IS FULL OF VERY EXCITING NEWS, SO PLEASE KEEP READING!!!**

DECEMBER TRIP TO U.S.

December was a packed month for us, and included joining with the families of Luis and Maelvy in NM to celebrate their wedding, teaching a seminar in Texas, meeting and sharing with new folks, dodging snow storms, and spending the Christmas holiday with 26 members of Dave's family in Albuquerque! *We put over 5,000 miles on the truck during the time we were away!!!* One highlight of this time for us was that our children and grandbaby (Lauren, Gareth and Hayley from England; and Justin from Wales), were able to be with us this Christmas. That made it a very special time for us indeed!!!

NOW WORKING WITH MIRAMAR YOUTH

Upon our return from the states, we were asked by one of the local pastors if we would work with their youth. This is one of the larger churches in the area, with about 17 young people (ages 14-21) in the youth group. Inexplicably (because available time is a concern), we both felt the Lord directing us to say "yes" when we prayed about it. We're not sure His reasons for this, but perhaps they will become clearer in time. Meanwhile, we are with the kids every Saturday, and working with another man who was helping with the youth previously. We are also planning a number of special evenings and things with the teenagers in the coming months, to get to know them better and open a door for new kids to merge more easily into the group.



INVITATION TO LEAD WORKSHOPS FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Recently we were also asked to consider leading workshops for students at a new branch university (government run for students from working class families) in Empalme, the smaller city next door to Guaymas. The workshops would involve things to help and benefit the students in daily life (life skills training), outside of the normal curriculum. This is something we are currently praying about. **We hope to have a meeting with these folks to talk more about details in the near future and appreciate your prayers for wisdom and discernment.**

ENGLISH TEACHER ARRIVES FROM ENGLAND MID-FEBRUARY



Helen Wherrett, the young woman coming from England to teach English as a Second Language, will be arriving very soon! **Please pray for safe travel and for her luggage as she travels on the 15th and 16th.** There is a long list of people waiting for her arrival who are desperate to learn English, including many local pastors!! As you might remember, Dee taught English for a while after we moved here. But she realized after a time that teaching English is not her area of anointing! ☺ We have found an apartment for Helen already, but will need to also help her find a car to buy. This may involve driving her to the states to find one. **We appreciate your prayers regarding her need for a car. Helen also needs prayer regarding her visa and flights.** She had to settle for a tourist visa at this time and a round trip ticket which will send her back to England in May. But she hopes that with help from Mexicans here who know the system, she will be able to get a work visa for a year and change her tickets to a return in one year.

THINGS ARE A-CHANGIN' IN GUAYMAS!!!

As you know, we have been meeting with another couple to pray prophetically over the city on a regular basis, to stand in the gap for Guaymas before the Lord's throne of grace. **We believe we are seeing some things break finally, and it is very exciting!** For example, we have a friend who is a committed Christian and a shrimp boat captain. We recently learned that after a long period of poor harvests, this season his boat brought in 18 tons of shrimp in four months! (It's a good thing we like shrimp, since we are learning lots of new and different ways to cook it!) Another example involves the alianza (ministerial alliance) of which we are a part. For the **FIRST TIME**, the alianza is working together to hold a *compaña* (outreach) in the city plaza which will have no local church's name on it but, rather, will be conducted by THE Church of Guaymas. *Our ministry is contributing towards the cost of this event, scheduled for April 24-29th. We are also serving on the intercessory prayer team (before) and ministry team (during).*

FURNISHINGS DONATED FOR GUAYMAS YOUTH CENTER

While in the states, we had used furnishings donated by a New Mexico bank for the youth center. What a blessing!! These items included folding tables, a large desk, file cabinets, office chairs, client chairs, a small sofa, a TV, coffee tables, an OHP and cart, several large whiteboards, a refrigerator (that we had to pay \$50 for), a rolling coffee cart and 3 computers (minus hard drives).

Thank you so much to Kevin T. for facilitating this donation, and to Kevin, Mike W. and Brent T. for helping us move the stuff into storage until we can get it down to Mexico!! ***We have a need to move these furnishing from the barn they are currently stored in (Los Alamos, NM) to another storage place by early March or bring them down here to Mexico by then. The owner of the barn needs it back at that time. Can anyone help us????

IT'S A BIRD! IT'S PLANE! NO, IT'S A BUILDING FOR THE YOUTH CENTER!



We believe we have *finally* found a location for the youth center - a large house that once belonged to a former mayor of Guaymas and has been abandoned for 13 years. It is actually only a shell now, because everything that could have been stolen out of it has been stolen through the years! Thieves even pulled all the wiring out of the plaster walls and dug up the floors to take the plumbing! However the size and layout of the building is perfect, with many rooms and several patios, and even a large parking area off the street. The location is perfect also, as it is on the main highway (business route) running through the city and right across the street from a big bus station.

We feel the Lord wants to take this ruin and restore it to be used for His glory, just like He does with all of us! The owners have said that they are willing to let us use it rent free for five years if we restore it and make it useable again. **But our negotiations still need a lot of prayer.** So far, things have been a little nebulous and it has been hard to pin the owners down. We still have yet to see a copy of the contract also. And there are other people who have gotten involved, bringing some complication and confusion. We appreciate very much your standing with us in prayer until all the pieces fall firmly into place!! Please also pray for Sr. López, the family member with whom we are dealing. We sense he has a lot of hurt in his life that the Lord would like to touch and heal.



A meeting is scheduled this Tuesday the 13th with the Mayor of Guaymas for us to share with him about the youth center, which he has already heard about from other people. We appreciate prayer for this meeting - for favor, grace, discernment on our part, and for the Lord's will to be done as we continue to put the youth center in His hands.

IF YOUR TEAM MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN COMING DOWN TO HELP WORK ON RESTORING AND REPAIRING THE BUILDING IN MARCH, APRIL OR MAY, PLEASE TALK TO US!! SEE CONTACT DETAILS BELOW.

MEETING THE NEED OF THE YOUTH IN GUAYMAS

Recently, we had a long conversation with our neighbor, Miguel, who teaches at a local high school. Miguel is very perceptive and has a heart for the young people. He believes the number one problem with the youth here is that the parents are always busy working and not home (6 and 7 days a week here), exhausted when they are home, and generally clueless about what is really

going on with their children. The picture we got was of parents overwhelmed with their own problems and having no emotional energy left to deal with their kids. He says that the young people are often left unsupervised while the parents are working and, as a result, end up watching a lot of TV and then getting into trouble - smoking, drinking and vandalizing the city - instead of being in school or doing their homework. He also feels that teenagers are getting married and pregnant at earlier ages now and entering adulthood with little vision, education or skills. THESE ARE JUST THE SORT OF PROBLEMS THE YOUTH CENTER WILL BE ADDRESSING!

We have local people willing to give time and energy to help, both in working on the building and in the operation of the youth center - Christian youth as leaders reaching out to their peers, adults teaching English and educational workshops, serving as volunteer tutors, making baked goods to sell in the snack bar, teaching computer courses and music training (which is not offered in the schools here), etc. We are excited by the number of locals who want to get behind this project! Since Guaymas has the highest suicide rate per capita among teenagers of any city in Mexico, many people recognize the need to minister to the youth and reach out to them in practical ways. They just haven't known what to do, or had resources to go about tackling this problem. We don't have the resources either, but we are believing God to make a way. And He is!!

ONE FINAL NOTE - SHARING TANGIBLE BLESSINGS

We have also been able to bless people here in some practical ways since our last newsletter in December: We were able to purchase and donate more Bibles to local pastors to share with new believers, and cleaning supplies, which were greatly needed at two local orphanages. We also distributed more used clothing and shoes in the extremely poor colonia of Mirador, and brought a bookcase from the states for a pastoral couple who has been keeping their ministry books underneath their bed in cardboard boxes!

MANY THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO ARE HELPING TO MAKE SUCH GIFTS POSSIBLE, ENABLING OUR MINISTRY HERE TO CONTINUE, AND ENSURING THAT THE YOUTH CENTER BECOMES A REALITY!! We cannot begin to express our appreciation in words. Thank you again, dearest friends, for your many prayers on our behalf, for your financial support, donations of goods, encouragement, love and emails!! May the Lord bless and keep each one of you, guard your hearts in Christ Jesus, and order your footsteps according to His plan and purpose for your lives.

We love you dearly,

Dave and *Dee*



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