

DEAR FRIENDS,

Sending LOTS OF LOVE from "broiling" Guaymas!! Before we share our news, and offer more fodder for prayer, we would just like to say how honored we are to have so many wonderful friends and family members like you from around the world. We are truly a very blessed couple, and we thank the Lord each day for you guys! Your love and support encourages us to press through

the hard places (of which there are many here) and brings such joy into our lives!! We appreciate every card, letter, email and Facebook message. We appreciate your ongoing prayers for both us and the work here in Mexico. We appreciate your prayers for the people here. And we appreciate the financial support that many of you have sacrificed to share over the years we have been on the mission

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field. You all remain in our hearts and in our prayers, as we ask the Lord to fill your lives with His presence, reveal Himself to you more fully, guide and direct your steps and meet your every need. He is such a faithful God. We pray that we will *all*, each one, come to know Him and experience His power in our lives, more ... and more ... and more!!

Unity, Intercession and Answers to Prayer

A lot has happened here since our last newsletter, beginning with the Transformations weekend the very end of March. It included a March for Jesus parade down the main street of Guaymas, ending

with a time of intercession at the Three Presidents' Plaza, and later in the day, a rally at the stadium with several thousand Christians from around the city.

The metal folding chairs donated by our friends in Texas came in handy once again (!!!), as we were asked to supply the chairs for the stadium field area. While it was a phenomenal weekend in many ways, we felt that it had lost some momentum and enthusiasm and become a bit more like "church as usual" this year. Even the exciting things happening here need the covering of continued prayer. Thanks for joining with us to stand in the gap!



Secondly, the ministerial alliance meetings have been focusing more and more on unity and interceding for this city and nation, seeking God for REAL transformation. As those of you who know us well are quite aware ... this is something very close to our hearts and something we have personally been praying towards for the past five years here in Guaymas. How it touches our hearts to now see the pastors getting a vision for this!!



Along with a change in focus in the ministerial alliance meetings, we've had two city-wide intercessory meetings here in Guaymas with the pastors and intercessors from the various churches coming together to worship and intercede together for this city for an entire evening. God is moving and things are changing – bit by bit!!

To relate something on a level more directly personal to the folks here, we'd like to share with you something one of the pastor's wives shared with us. She said they have a group of intercessors who have been praying very fervently for the past 18 months or so, on a weekly basis, for their *colonia* (neighborhood), which used to be very rough. She said that after soaking the *colonia* with intercessory prayer for a year and a half, the spiritual atmosphere there has completely changed – that the drug dealer and gang leaders are now all in prison, that it is safe and very peaceful these days. That, dear friends, is the power of prayer!!

We've also seen the Lord get hold of the hearts of the young people concerning prayer and intercession for our city. We had a *Conéctate* leadership meeting at our house one night back in April or thereabouts. After a time of prayer and worship, going over some things and fellowshiping over hot dogs, the group began to move outdoors onto our front patio little by little. Spontaneous worship began to happen as one of the young men began playing around on Dave's guitar, and they began to sing things like, "Send Your Fire", "I Will Follow the Cloud of Your Presence" and "I Want More, More, More of You, Lord!" Then they began to pray, each one for another, and they prayed fervently and LOUD ... for over 10 minutes!! We began to be a little concerned about the neighbors because by this time it was after midnight! This then morphed into everyone laying prostrate on our patio, crying out to God for more of Him. And then the whole group began to stand as one mass and turn towards downtown Guaymas across the bay, stretching out their hands to intercede for this city. Then they began to sing over the city with prophetic song. It was absolutely incredible and amazingly powerful – we know some things hanging over this city broke that night!! This photo (above) was taken with somebody's cell phone just before everyone left to go home –after 1 am!!



Final Christmas Shoebox Distribution – April 10th

Our final day of ministry for the Christmas Shoebox Project took place in April this year. It was a bit later than we'd hoped due to the fullness of our schedule and the desire to work it out so that we could do together with the Miramar church group again (which meant working around their schedule also). This day of ministry and distribution took place in a *colonia* of Guaymas called The 23rd of March. Lots of colonias are named after dates here! This is a very poor *colonia*, without any Christian presence. So it was exciting to go in and

touch the lives of these children and their parents!! Many thanks again to all who participated by preparing shoeboxes or donating stuffed animals again this year. It was such a blessing to some of the neediest here!!



Update on ¡Conéctate!



The monthly city-wide youth event has made great strides since the last newsletter. The April ¡Conéctate! was quite different – at the direction of the Lord, we did it like a campfire on the beach, only it was in the middle of the youth center

courtyard, with everyone sitting in gradually widening circles around the fire. There was no worship team this time, just Dave on his guitar. And there was no one to preach; we just opened it up to any of the young people who had something to edify, exhort or encourage the others. In all, 8 of the young people spontaneously shared something, and everything they shared was right on the money and powerful. We moved back and forth between worship, prayer and kids sharing throughout the evening. It was the most *involved* we have ever seen the group as a whole, and it was AWESOME!!! The kids all raved about it for weeks, and we all agreed it was the best one yet! In the May ¡Conéctate! there were a number of youth checking it out for the first time who did not know the Lord, including one young man that several of the Christian kids knew from school to be a Satanist. He didn't go up for prayer or get saved, but he did return for the June youth event. We just hugged him and loved on him and will continue to pray for him. 😊 For the June event, we had a Christian mime



team from Hermosillo come in and the place was packed! In fact, we used all the chairs we had (130)!! That was a first!!

We have taken a big step forward with ¡Conéctate! now and have begun raising up a leadership team to take it on the road. Though Dave and I will provide covering, help guide things, provide equipment and get them where they need to go, this team is going to pretty much do it all – the planning, the organization, the technical support, the worship and the ministry. We have been working with this team since April, usually meeting on Saturday mornings at 7:30am, as it is the only time free time in their schedules that MOST of those involved can get together. The problem is that these kids come from 7 different churches – and the churches have things going on most of the week that they are expected to attend. They also have school and work commitments. We started out with 26 kids interested in being part of this leadership team, but are now down to about 16 or 17. A fair amount of attrition is normal, though, especially if we are meeting

so early on Saturday mornings! In these meetings, we worship and pray together, foster unity and work on things to help them operate as a team with one voice, share things to help equip them for the work of the ministry and have an activation time where they minister to one another and put into practice some of what they have been learning. The first ¡Conéctate! on the road is tentatively scheduled for September in the valley area between Guaymas and the city of Obregón to the south. We'll see if they are ready by then!! A special workshop was also held for them with the mime team that came from Hermosillo in June. It was an all-day workshop that focused on everything from motivation in ministry to team building exercises to helping to develop their creativity. What a fun and productive day we had together!!



Team Building at Arts Workshop

Youth Center Update



We have made more progress at the youth center in the past few months and believe we will finally, hopefully, be able to open in August sometime! That is, if our latest setback with the sewer drains collapsing doesn't cause a huge delay. As you know, we have sure had our share of setback since we first began

to run with this vision for a youth center for Guaymas! It has been three years of worry, stress, hard work and sweat to prepare this place as a youth center for the city! (And some things have had to be done over and over again.) But we now have the coffee bar painted and tiled, the metal welded over the ping-pong table area (outdoors) and a thick piece of tent-quality vinyl



attached for shade, the vinyl pool table cover made (it is outdoors also) and the pool table put together, and some artistic graffiti incorporating the name of the youth center (The Oasis or "El Oasis") painted on the biggest exterior wall out on the street. A group of about 25 kids came and helped us with this. They designed it and worked hard for two days painting it. On the last day,

they painted two hours by the headlights of a car to get it finished! Didn't they do an awesome job??!! We love it – it is perfect for the youth center and perfect for this culture!! So far, the ruffians in town have respected it and not graffitied over it. Please pray that the Lord will keep this wall hidden from their sight and protect it from any vandalism – thanks!!

Miscellaneous Ministry

We've ministered around town a bit the past few months – both in Guaymas and Empalme. But the most precious service was with a big group of youth one Saturday night in April at the *Iglesia de Profecía*. It was an absolutely incredible night that ended with most of youth up sobbing at the altar, some for an hour or more. We were sobbing, too, from watching the Lord do such a special work in the hearts of these young people. Precious! Precious! Precious!

In April, we ministered in a few churches in the states, as well as to some Mexican guys in a county

jail in Texas. Boy, was that a tear-jerker! We also had the privilege of baptizing a very dear friend on this trip, which greatly touched our hearts.

And in May, we were honored to renew the marriage vows of a pastoral couple we know, who travelled to Guaymas for this purpose. It was a precious evening together on the beach, as we led them in renewing their vows ... and then they led us in renewing ours! Our 30th anniversary was two weeks later, so we thought it was a lovely idea when the other couple suggested it. 😊

Update on Fatima Feeding Project

We've had a delay concerning the project to help Pastors Rafael and Marisela feed the children in *colonia Fatima*. Several things have arisen to delay the construction of the feeding facility, not least of which is that the team from Oregon, who was doing the building, was unable to come down this summer as planned due to extenuating circumstances. On funds for the facility, we lack about another \$1500 - just FYI in case the Lord lays this on your heart! And many thanks to those who have contributed towards this need to date!!



Children from Colonia Fatima

Final Thoughts from Our Hearts to Yours



Again, we thank you all so much for your prayers, as well as your love and friendship. With this newsletter comes abundant HUGS to each and every one of you!! May your summer be a blessed one as you continue to seek the Lord, grow in intimacy with Him, and receive latter rain showers of His grace and life over your own lives and that of your families and friends.

And, finally, **PLEASE COMMIT TO PRAY FOR THE UNITED STATES!** As a nation, we are in peril. Only God's intervention can fend off the onslaught and turn the tide of the continuing deterioration we face in almost every area of society and government today. There is an insidious spiritual assault taking place upon America in these disturbing days – we need to wake up to it and stand against it. With that in mind, we'd like to close with this reminder from the Lord in 2 Chronicles 7:14:

"if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

We love you dearly,

 

and some of our Guaymas friends



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