

June 12, 2007

Dear Friends,

"So He [Jesus] said to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.'" (Luke 18:29-30)

When we read how Jesus addressed the sacrifice which is sometimes required to answer God's call, it often does not "hit home" until it is we ourselves who are the ones making the sacrifice. The two of us must confess that it has hit home to us more these last few years with our children (and now grandchild) living on the other side of the world in one country, our elderly parents far from us in a second country and us living in yet a third country as missionaries!! We try to be with immediate family for serious operations, weddings and so forth, but admittedly it is difficult, and a source of concern and distress to us at times when we cannot be there for them as much as we long to be.

This is only one of the areas in which we have sacrificed greatly our own lives to serve the kingdom of God and our precious Lord. And yet, He endured the horrendous pain and shame of the Cross to sacrifice His own life for us. If He did this for us, can we do any less for Him?



He promises us in the above passage from the gospel of Luke that, as we give our lives as living sacrifices (Rom 12: 1-2), He will pour out blessing in our lives both now and for eternity. We can trust Him to take care of everything! His grace is sufficient for every need (2 Cor 12:9). He will fill the gaps, minister to the ache in our hearts, and cause all things to work together for good (Rom 8: 28) by His divine power working in our lives. In fact, He will do so beyond all that we can ask or imagine (Eph 3:20). These are His promises to us!

Do you have a sense that the Lord is asking you to release something in particular to Him in order to follow Him more closely or to serve Him with greater commitment? Be encouraged that you are not alone! As those who have walked this path for many years, we can testify to God's boundless grace and faithfulness in the midst of trial and sacrifice. We urge you to surrender completely to His call and Lordship, placing your hand in His, trusting Him to take care of everything. *"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."* (Heb 10:23).

Guaymas Youth Update



We continue to meet with the Miramar youth on a weekly basis and help out with special events to challenge them in their relationships with the Lord, have fun together and build closer relationships with one another. In April, we hosted a beach party which was attended by 12 young

people. We played kickball, volleyball, football, held relay races, and chatted with one another as we cooked hotdogs over the fire. We also had an "activation" time with the kids, which they really enjoyed, and a time around the fire sharing more personally with one another how the Lord is working in our lives. This month, we have a pajama party planned (with the young ladies and the young men at different houses!). Our goal is to facilitate spiritual growth, but also to have a great time together experiencing what the Bible calls "koinonia". We probably won't get much sleep, but we are looking forward to this time with the young people!! We are also doing things like taking one teen a week out for coffee and a chat, to get to know them and their particular situation more intimately.



We have recently begun a Friday Night get-together in our home for youth from around the city who; (1) want to help as leaders at the youth center (when we *finally* open); (2) want to go deeper in God OR; (3) simply want more opportunity to pray, worship and fellowship with other young people. We try to make it very fun and interesting while we are equipping, challenging, encouraging and imparting greater vision to the kids who come. As yet, it is not a large group, but we trust it will continue to grow as the word gets out!

We are *still* waiting on the city to give us the go-ahead for the youth center building. Things happen very slowly here in Sonora, especially when dealing with the government. The Lord gave Dave a picture this morning of gears ground to a halt by obstructions thrown into the teeth. But the Lord is well able to get the gears moving once again. Meanwhile, we were able to move the donated furnishings for the youth center from their previous location in NM to a storage unit at the border. It was a big relief to get that out of the way. *Many thanks to Brent and Nancy for storing these items in their barn for 4 months, and for being so patient with us!!*



We had the joy this month of presenting \$1400 in scholarships to help local youth attend the big Christian youth conference in Juarez that we mentioned in our last newsletter. *Thank you Liz, Alex & Beccy, Rosanne, and Bill for your help with these scholarships!* These funds have gone to help over 50 young people get to this conference. The young people have given their deposits now for transportation, accommodation and conference registration, but still need much prayer as they work very hard to make the balance before the conference in July.

We also want to extend *a big thank you to Mark, Mike, Meiring and Mary for building materials and musical equipment & instruments donated* for our work with the youth here. Also, a grande "muchisimas gracias" to *Grace Vineyard and Glory Christian Fellowship for coming alongside and blessing us immensely with your friendship and support!!!*

Other News

The big city-wide compaña in April that was sponsored by our local ministerial alliance went pretty well. The two of us were there every night interceding for the event and ministering with the other alianza members, when our help was needed, to those who responded to the various invitations. We'd love to see the Christian leadership here break out of the "having a church service in the plaza" mold in their efforts to reach the city, but perhaps it will come with more time and prayer.

The legal problem that we have been dealing with concerning our home/land continues to drag on and hit snags. Right now, we are in the midst of another snag. We have given this situation

over the Lord, but continue to pray for His justice to be revealed and for those things settled in the heavenlies to be made manifest here in the physical realm, so that we can finally put this behind us.

Helen, our young friend from England, has settled in well and is enjoying her job teaching English at a school. At the moment she is visiting back in England, but returns tomorrow! She is planning to start a free weekly class in English for people we are working with here, including a number of pastors, who are very anxious to learn English but don't have the money to pay for classes. (Knowing English often helps people to get better jobs or make more money in their present positions because there are many international companies here.)

Upcoming Trip to England/Wales

Our 24 year old son, Justin, is getting married in Cardiff, Wales on August 5th- for those of you who did not know! Dave will be performing the ceremony along with Sarah's pastor. But first, the two of us have the honor of conducting a wedding ceremony for another precious couple, Anthony and Rebecca, in England on the 7th of July. During the time in between, we will be visiting with our family and friends, but also doing quite a lot of ministry. We greatly appreciate your prayers!!

Prayer Focus This Newsletter



- Breakthrough – youth center building.
- Breakthrough – legal problem and situation with our home/land here.
- Friday night city-wide youth meeting in our home.
- Monday night prayer for the city in our home.
- Breakthrough – the youth of Guaymas: The young people we are working with have identified what they believe are the 6 biggest problems facing young people here. They are these: the lack of identity, depression/suicide, Satanism/witchcraft, prostitution, teen pregnancy and drug addiction resulting from the disintegration of families, lots of confusion and a desperate search for love and purpose.
- Grace for Helen as she returns from cold England to very hot northwest Mexico.

Thank you all for your prayers, but also for your love and friendship!! *They not only bless us and make our lives that much richer, but they help to sustain us through the hard times and difficulties that we face on a daily basis here on mission field.* May the Lord continue to pour out His grace and mercy abundantly in each of your lives. And may He bring, by the power of His Holy Spirit, the divine enablement needed to surrender more fully to Him with each passing day.

We love you dearly,

Dave and *Dee*

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