

March 26, 2009

Dear Friends,

Greetings from sunny Mexico! And Easter blessings to each one of you! It's hard to believe it is almost Easter. We've been so busy that January and February blew by, and December suddenly became March ... almost April. It seems like the older we get, the faster time accelerates. Is anyone else experiencing this???

What We Are Celebrating at Easter



In Exodus 12 (1450-1500 B.C.), God instituted the Pascha or Passover. It was His plan to protect the Israelites from death, when He sent the last of ten plagues upon the Egyptians. He was working to convince Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to leave Egypt and the slavery they had experienced for 400 years!! A lamb was slain and its blood applied to the doorposts of each Israelite household to protect the inhabitants from what was to come. Afterwards, He directed that Passover should continue to be celebrated throughout the coming generations as a memorial. Jesus, the Son, was put to death during Passover according to the Father's plan around 30 A.D. and became the ultimate sacrificial Passover Lamb ([Matt 26:2](#); [John 1:36](#), [19:14](#); [1Cor 5:7](#)) ushering in a new covenant between God and man. This is partly what Easter is about. But Easter also focuses on the resurrection of Jesus three days later, and our gift (through appropriating the blood of the Lamb for ourselves) of life over death. Because Jesus appeared to well over 500 people on something like 8 different occasions after His resurrection, the historical record verifies His victory over the grave. Easter, then, speaks of NEW LIFE, not just that seen in the resurrection of Jesus, the Redeemer for mankind, but also the new life He said He came to bring us. Jesus explained in [John 10:10](#), "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." In [John 11:25](#), He goes on to say, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." Easter is about Divine life in the here and now, and Divine life in eternity, made possible through the death of the ultimate Passover Lamb and His resurrection as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords ([Rev 19:16](#)). Friends, in a nutshell, that is what Easter is all about. It is certainly something to celebrate!

Short News Briefs

- α One of the most "unique" news bites we have to share is that we found a baby rattlesnake about 9" long slithering down the hallway in our home one evening back in January. Life is always an adventure here, in some way or another. ☺
- α We were able to give several hundred dollars to help one local church with their construction needs and give a DVD player, resources/materials and a big box of small toys to another local church for use in their children's ministry. This church has a huge outreach to children in one of the poorest colonias of Guaymas. They were so thankful for this blessing, which you helped make possible!

- α One well-respected pastor in town told us in January that, because so many Americans have come and gone here in the past, it takes some time before people are willing to trust us with their lives. He went on to say that the people here are just now beginning to trust us not to abandon them (after 3 ½ years!!). He feels the Lord will be opening new doors for Lifeline Ministries in Guaymas as a result.
- α In February, we taught a weekend marriage seminar at one of the local churches and ministered prophetically to each couple afterwards. We've also recently ministered on Sundays in some of the local churches, and taught some mid-week classes. We continue to meet every Saturday afternoon with the youth from the Miramar church and every Monday night with 2 couples from the Adonai church to pray for the city.
- α Also in February, we took part in a citywide prophetic seminar here in Guaymas and were part of the prophetic team that ministered personally to all the conference participants as well as to each of the 200 or so members of the congregation at one of the local churches on Sunday.
- α We had a night of hotdogs, fellowship and prayer with the *¡Conéctate!* team and other kids who wanted to come (20 in all) at our home in February. There were five different churches represented this night as the kids prayed powerfully for God to move. It was a fabulous night! These kids are so awesome!
- α The landlord of the youth center facility asked Dee to come to her home to counsel and pray with her about a specific situation in her family. Two weeks later, she called with a marvelous answer to prayer, saying, "Thank you for praying with me! There really is power in prayer!"
- α Mike from Mountain Christian Fellowship in Oregon arrived this week to meet with us and set up things for their missions team of 20 people coming in June.
- α A precious 20 year old girl we met when we were ministering in Nuevo León in November will be coming to visit us in early April. We are praying she will receive a touch from the Lord while she is here.



Youth Center Update



We've made a huge push at the youth center since the first of the year and it is realistic to hope that we will be able to open to the public sometime in May or June. Of course, there are a lot of variables *and* this is Mexico where nothing works like you think it will, but we are very hopeful!! Since the last newsletter, we have done concrete work at the youth center to create a mini-basketball court, have gotten the café work station pretty much finished, holes in exterior concrete walls patched, all the windows finished and installed (Dave made them all), the security bars installed for the last two exterior doors (Dave also made those in our garage), a storage closet built, many of the lights installed

and the big classroom finished so that it is now usable. In fact, we are allowing a new Bible school to use this room one night a week, rent free as a blessing to them. Later, when the youth center is finally open, it will be closed to the public on this night.

¡Conéctate! Update



The monthly youth event meeting at the municipal gymnasium is going well and touching many lives, but there have been continual problems and obstacles to overcome each month. **We appreciate so much your prayers for this event!!** Here are some of the things we have experienced: Many kids have to leave early and miss the personal ministry because all of the buses in Guaymas quit running between 8 and 9 pm, depending upon the route. We had initially thought that they would be able to arrange for rides home, but it turns out that many cannot. In fact, we've heard that many don't even try to come because of the transportation problem. (But we cannot start earlier because the schools don't let out until 7pm). In December, we arrived at the gym to find no electricity (the meter had been removed) and had to wait several hours to start until someone from CFE could come rig it to work temporarily. Also, we found out afterwards that a rumor had been going around town that *¡Conéctate!* had been postponed indefinitely, and as a result,

many kids stayed home that month. In January, we learned there are also some churches in town speaking against *¡Conéctate!* and forbidding kids in their youth groups to go. In February, we arrived to find the whole area littered with Styrofoam takeout boxes, used napkins, and fly-covered food. It looked like a couple hundred people had eaten take-out hamburgers and French fries, and then just thrown all their trash on the bleachers, the court and the ground just before we arrived. It took two of us over an hour to clean up before we could start setting up for *¡Conéctate!*. This was just a few days after we had prepared and delivered a giant gift basket to the sports department and card from all the young people, thanking them for allowing us to use the gym for *¡Conéctate!*. Sigh. In March, we arrived to find a huge



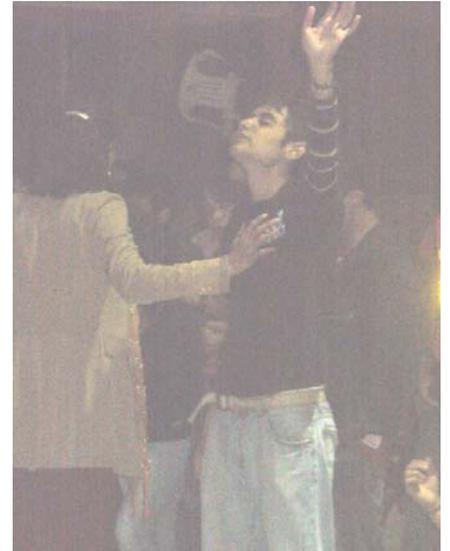
volleyball tournament going on. We showed them our written permit, and they showed us theirs – for the same place and the same time! They finally finished, and we were able to start setting up several hours late. But it was *very* frustrating. Because of all the problems using the gym, we have decided to move *¡Conéctate!* to the outdoor courtyard of the youth center, beginning in May. But we will still need your prayers, because simply the moving location won't make the spiritual battle go away.

ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, we had a really special *¡Conéctate!* in February. It was all about Jesus as our Bridegroom, the Church as the Bride of Christ and the kind of intimate relationship He



wants with each one of us. Dave was the one sharing from his heart with the kids this time. We also decorated a borrowed wedding arch, gave out wedding invitations we'd made, one of the youth dressed as a bride to do a special dance number, we prayed for the kids individually and gave them each a ring to signify their new commitment to a loving and intimate relationship with the Lord. We even brought a huge wedding cake and punch to experience communion together at the end. It was very powerful! And in March, the event was special in a different way. The speaker was a young woman who is the daughter of one of the

local pastors. She was able to connect deeply with the young people as she shared, and the response at the end was phenomenal. Almost everyone in the place went forward, responding to her call to give their lives completely to the Lord without holding anything back. There were at least 10 churches represented in the March event (that we could see), and we were excited to also see two of our teenage neighbors at this event, along with a boy we'd met playing soccer on the court as we started setting up in October. We had invited him to come at the time, but never knew he had been coming until this night in March. He finally got up the courage to see if we remembered him! The *¡Conéctate!* team of young people is also working very well together, developing into confident, anointed leaders. So all in all, lots of *good* things are happening with *¡Conéctate!*. ☺

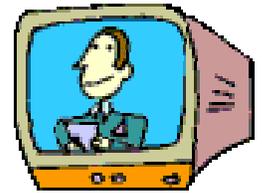


Prayer Points

- Please pray for the nation of Mexico, the city of Guaymas and the people here, especially the pastors and the youth. Pray the pastors will be willing to set aside tradition to follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and that the youth will press through shyness and intimidation to be the leaders for change that the Lord is calling them to be here.
- Please pray for a divine, supernatural move of the Holy Spirit, which will open up this city and allow the glory of the Lord to remain here – bringing blessing, transformation, life, freedom, healing, provision, grace, joy and all that the Lord has for those with surrendered hearts.
- Please pray for *¡Conéctate!*, especially the one on April 10th, which will be our final one in the municipal gym. Pray God's covering and protection over this monthly event, even as you pray for the young people who are participating.
- Please pray for us that, among other things, we would remain in good health and that we would not grow weary in well doing. Please pray also that we would continue to be motivated only by the Lord's love and compassion, and that His LIFE would infuse everything we do.
- Lifeline has received one check for chairs for *¡Conéctate!*, which will purchase 4 metal folding chairs. Only 96 to go! ☺ When we move the event over to the youth center, we will still need chairs, so we appreciate continued prayer for this need. Thank you!!

Don't Believe All the News You Read or Hear!!!

Since we try to read the news online from the states each day, we've become aware of what is being said about travel to Mexico. Some of the media has used dishonest and inflammatory headlines, articles and news programs to strike fear into the hearts of Americans and keep them from coming to Mexico. We've seen headlines like "Mexican Economy is Collapsing" and "Headless Torso is American" which appear designed to scare Americans away from traveling here. Sometimes there will be balance by the end of the article or program, but many people only read or hear the first part. With respect to these specific headlines we mentioned, the Mexican economy is far from collapsing, but if the media keeps this up, it will destroy the tourist industry here and they will be responsible for bringing about just such a collapse. And the headless torso? It turned out the body belonged to a Mexican running a pizza parlor in Tijuana, MX who had a long history of selling drugs. He just happened to be born in the U.S. but his family background was Mexican, he lived in Mexico and associated with criminals. We feel there is an agenda by the American media to sabotage the Mexican economy, for some purpose of their own which we do not yet fully understand. Or to make Americans so afraid that they will give up more of their rights. The reality is that the Mexican drug cartels are primarily creating problems in two cities: Juarez, across the border from El Paso and Tijuana, across the border from San Diego, and are strong in the western state of Sinaloa because that is the headquarters of one of the cartels. This is within a *huge* country! There have been isolated incidents in other places, but those killed were almost without exception either people associated with a rival cartel or law enforcement personnel who are going after the cartels. Please! Don't blindly believe what you are reading about Mexico in the media! And go ahead with your vacation to Mexico. This country desperately needs your tourism dollars and you will be safer than in most American cities.



A Final Word

Again, we just want to thank you all so much for your love and support! When things get rough, and we feel the loneliness, we remember what wonderful friends and family we have around the world. We praise God for each one of you. Knowing that you are praying with us and for us brings comfort and encouragement to our hearts, and strengthens us to persevere through the barriers we face on a daily basis. You remain in our prayers also, and we hope that you will continue to let us know when you have specific prayer needs. Part of this walk is about lifting up and supporting one another as the Body of Christ. May the Lord continue to guard and keep your hearts, establish you in His love and direct your every step in 2009.

We love you dearly,

 *Dave* and  *Dee*

*U.S. tax deductible contributions may be sent to Lifeline Ministries
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