

DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings from sunny Mexico! Spring is in the air – at least in some parts of the world! And Easter will be here shortly. We've been thinking a lot about new life and transformation recently. This Christian walk isn't really so much about "escaping the fires of hell" as it is being restored to an intimate relationship with our heavenly Father and, consequently, experiencing His divine life and an ongoing process of

transformation in every area of our lives. While we all remain "under construction" with areas of our lives dug up and dismantled at times, we hope that generally –speaking, there is progress made each day, however infinitesimal, towards becoming more and more like Jesus. His resurrection, which we celebrate at Easter, made it possible for us to experience this new life and transformation! "... that just as Christ was raised from the dead

March 30, 2010

by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4). Our hearts cry out, "Thank you, Lord, for your death and resurrection on our behalf. Thank you for sending Your Holy Spirit to fill and enable us. Thank you for Your gift of life!" And a very happy Easter to you all!



Short News Bytes - A Little of This and That

We had a night in January at our home with a group of youth from 7 different churches to pray for the city, the nation and for ¡Conéctate!. A precious time was had by all as the youth prayed with fervency and sensitivity to the heart and mind of the Lord.

One of the teenage boys we are working with (David) asked Dave if he would mentor him. So they've been meeting 6 hours a week, to focus on Bible study, prayer, and how to practically live a life that glorifies God. We believe David is someone the Lord is going to use in a powerful way.



We've learned recently that the Zetas are beginning to move into Guaymas and have been extorting business owners – threatening to burn down their businesses and such if they don't pay protection money. Sounds like the mafia, doesn't it? This is something we are now addressing in prayer.

Last month, we spent an evening with a few of the Leadership kids, ministering to some personal issues and then watching the classic Transformations video afterwards. It was a night of breakthrough in a number of different ways!

Since the last newsletter, we were able to donate quite a few items to the poor families at the Guadalupe de Guaymas work camp, thanks to donations from giving folks in the states! Many thanks to those of you who contributed these items!

Last month, a number of youth we are working with from one church initiated their own weekly intercessory prayer meeting. They meet up and lead the meeting themselves without any adults present. Truly the Lord is doing some awesome things among the youth here in Guaymas!!

Recently, we helped a few days at a new little Bible school that just started this year over in San Carlos, at the request of our missionary friends, Eric and Roxana. Dave taught on worship and Dee was there to support and intercede. What a precious group. We are so glad we could assist!

Texas Missions Team



In mid-January, a team of folks from Trinity Worship Center arrived in Guaymas from Childress, TX. They brought with them the

Christmas shoeboxes and stuffed animals, which they had picked up for us in Albuquerque, and over

100 used folding chairs in a 16' enclosed trailer which had been donated by some precious friends. We were very excited to have them with us for a week and to receive



the items they brought down with them! This group helped to make another big push at the youth center, for which we are exceedingly grateful. They also shared and prayed for the entire congregation in two different churches, ministered at targeted houses around colonia *Caliche* (the roughest in Guaymas) – sharing bags of food we had prepared, along with shoeboxes and stuffed animals for the children, and praying for the people we visited, and helped with the childrens' ministry and Christmas shoebox distribution at the *Guadalupe de Guaymas* work camp. They also joined with us and some of the

area youth for a huge carne asada at our house. We had invited a few key youth to come and spend some time with the team, but over 30 kids showed up, plus



several adults. We had to keep leaving to go buy more food. What a night! What a week!! But it was awesome to have these guys here again and we want to say a big



thank you once again to Ronnie, Sarah, Wendell, Dee, Donna and Brett!

Update - Guaymas Ministerial Alliance

Things are changing among the pastors of Guaymas! **Thank you for your continued prayers on behalf of this city and her people!** We felt there was a real breakthrough at the last ministerial alliance meeting in early March. The focus was on the concept of *real* personal and city-wide transformation, with a visitor from Washington state who has worked with George Otis, Jr. and who brought with him copies of both Transformations videos in Spanish. We felt a new unity among the pastors in this meeting, and sensed that many were finally getting a vision for true unity, for real transformation, and to work together for the kingdom of God instead of building their own empires. It was also the most well attended alliance meeting we have had in the 4 1/2 years that we have been here, with 32 pastors and leaders participating!! We are continuing to meet in the big classroom of the youth center, as the other leaders really like meeting

in a neutral place. And we're glad to help. But we're a little concerned about the heat when summer begins to crank up for real and temps inside this "oven" get up over 130F. There is also a group who has asked to begin using this room for a pastoral certification course 2 evenings a week, on nights when the youth center won't be open. So this room seems to be quite popular with the local pastors! We just hope we can find a way to cool it down, as the A/C doesn't begin to touch the heat build-up in the summer, even after several hours.



Christmas Shoebox Distribution

The Christmas Shoebox ministry this year was a little different, due to our congested schedules and the logistics of working together with some other groups. It began in January and will finish in April! We ended up with 210 boxes and over 100 fantastic stuffed animals (thanks, D.S.!!!). The first distribution took place at the Guadalupe de Guaymas work camp in conjunction with the team from Texas and one of the local churches. The church group (who rented a bus and came as families) had a prepared an evangelistic program for the children which started with group games and face painting, then moved



on to singing and dancing, a drama, puppets and, of course, prayer. Afterwards, the shoeboxes and stuffed animals were given out to the children, numbering about 250, along with Bibles and other gifts for the parents. The church group had a couple hundred



shoeboxes from Samaritan's Purse, who chose Guaymas again this year because of the damage done by Hurricane Jimena. So we pooled our shoeboxes to make sure

there would be enough for the work camp and used the stuffed animals donated to Lifeline by folks in NM and Texas for the multitude of babies and toddlers. Now, with what is left over, we will be going with the same group of families to minister to children in a very poor area of a colonia in Guaymas called *Centinela*. There is an area of *Centinela* which has become "home" to families with no homes. They are just living in tents and under tarps, with no bathrooms or running water. This is the location for our next shoebox distribution, scheduled to take place on April 10th! The date is very close to the annual holiday for children here – so the timing couldn't be better. A BIG THANK YOU to Tom Crenshaw, last year's state coordinator, and to ALL who participated in the Christmas Shoebox Project during 2009, making this blessing to needy children possible again this year!! You guys are awesome!!



Youth Center Update

We are getting very close (we hope!) to finally being able to open the youth center to the public, after 21/2 years of hard work, and many delays and setbacks. Most of the painting still left to do was accomplished by the team from Texas in January. Since then, we have also plastered the coffee bar and painted part of it, fixed and installed more security lights, hung some ceiling fans, fixed the alarm system, moved more of the donated/purchased furnishings over that were stored at our house, and done some thorough cleaning in two of the rooms that are mostly ready. We are in the process of coordinating with a large youth group to paint the exterior walls incorporating the name/logo and some artistic graffiti, hoping that there will be the follow-through needed to accomplish this task.

Thank you so much for your continued prayers for this youth center. They are much needed and much appreciated!!

¡Conéctate! Update

A change has been evident in the last two youth monthly youth events, with some momentum gained back which we felt had been lost in December. For the February one, some of the kids planned a great ice breaker that incorporated a contest to see who could learn the most about the person with whom they were paired (boys with boys, girls with girls). They turned it into a half hour of fun with the winners getting a prize. One of the local worship leaders taught on a lifestyle of worship, and as the Holy Spirit moved among us, we saw a number of the young men set free at the end to dance before the Lord with abandon as King David did!



The photo above is all the young people who wouldn't leave and go home! In March, we had a much bigger crowd than we have had for a while and we had a fantastic time of intercession together in a huge circle, praying for the city, state and nation.

Dave shared a message about the deep connection that God desires for each one of us to have with Him in that place

of abiding. All was going well until a huge windstorm came up about 5 minutes after Dave started sharing! It blew throughout his message, freezing all of us and blowing dirt into our eyes, and toppling over the lighting equipment, a computer and the digital projector. There was some damage to the equipment, but we are thankful that it wasn't worse. Interestingly enough, the mighty wind stopped an hour after it began.

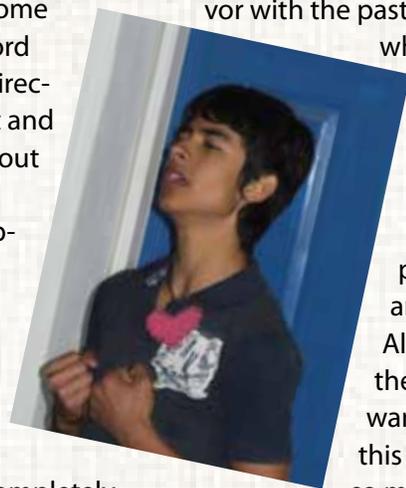
We have felt for some time that the Lord wants to shift direction with the youth event and we have been praying about this. We are sensing it is time to begin some equipping with a group of the youth who have already been somewhat involved with the leadership of it, turn it over to them more completely, and take *¡Conéctate!* on the road! The new folding chairs and enclosed trailer will be a big help towards this end!!

Some of the youth events "on the road" may be here in Guaymas, to bless different colonias of the city, but others will be outside the area, around the state. We have already had a request to bring *¡Conéctate!* to the

valley south of Guaymas. And we have some contacts in other areas of the state also. So we will see! Meanwhile, we appreciate your prayers so much for this youth event, as we look at moving out in this new direc-

tion!! We have never done anything like this before, so our knees are knocking! Please pray for clear wisdom and direction from the Lord for His plan and strategy, and divine enablement to communicate clearly with both the kids and their pastors. And for fa-

vor with the pastors of the kids who want to be part of the "*¡Conéctate!* team" so that they will give the kids their permission and support. Also, because the youth who want to be part of this team are from so many different churches, the only time we could find which was free for all of them for organization/rehearsing/equipping was Saturday mornings at 7:30am. They say they are committed and will come at that hour, but follow-through is a big issue in this culture, so this needs much prayer also. The first team meeting is Saturday, May 1st at the youth center facility!



A Special Project.....

We have developed a deep friendship with a pastoral family in the colonia of *Fatima*, one of the poorest in Guaymas. They have a real burden for the children in their colonia, and have been working with over 200 children on a weekly basis for the past several years. Now, to combat the horrendous need they see among the children, they want to build a facility within the colonia to provide meals for these children on a regular basis. Many are malnourished, some suffer from Aids, and a huge number are generally neglected by parents who are in prison, prostitutes or who simply have no means to take care of their children. A woman in the colonia who owns some land has already donated part of it to them to help make the project a reality. A missions team from Oregon that came last year wants to return with a construction team to help build this facility in June, but the high cost of travel will make it difficult for them to also cover the cost of materials. We would like to help raise the money for the materi-

als to build it. For around \$2500, we could provide them with a rudimentary cinder block or steel frame building on a concrete slab from which they could feed these kids. With a bit more, we could add a brick barbecue. Would you please intercede for the completion of this life changing project and prayerfully consider helping to meet this need? Thank you!



The team from Oregon with kids from Fatima in 2009

A Final Word.....

Again, we want to thank you all so much for your abundant love, prayers and support. You make this work among the people of Sonora, Mexico possible and are helping to change a nation ... one heart and life at a time!!! Mexico has many problems, as does the United States, Great Britain and the rest of the world. The only real, lasting answer for our world is more of JESUS, and the intervention of our mighty God, bringing life and transformation in the hearts of the people. Please remember - your prayers DO make a difference!!

We love you dearly,



Dave

and



Dee

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