

June '07

Voice in the Wilderness Ministries

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Dear Friends,

The following is a letter from Winston Penner of Landmark, Manitoba who did some teaching in the Bible School in CD Valles, Mexico.

MY TEACHING EXPERIENCE IN VALLES, MEXICO

This past January Cleo Yoder and I had the privilege of spending two weeks in Cd. Valles, Mexico teaching two Bible courses for Project LAMBS. (Cleo lives in Wolford, North Dakota and I live in Landmark, Manitoba.) Ciudad Valles is about a hundred miles inland from the Gulf city of Tampico. It is a fairly large city with a population of about 350,000. The bustling Mercado (outdoor market) in el centro (the downtown area) is a "must see" and "must experience" feature in Valles. Many of you will know Valles as the place where Steve Frey served as a medical missionary for a number of years. Steve was very instrumental in getting Project LAMBS started in Valles.

It was great to team-teach with Cleo. The two courses we taught for Project LAMBS (Light Abroad Mobile Bible Schools) were Bible Survey and Leadership Principles from the Book of Nehemiah. The classes were held evenings from 5:00 pm to about 8:30 pm. Many of the students had full-time day jobs and came to class directly from their place of work. This took commitment and dedication. It was obvious that many of the students were quite tired long before the classes were over, but this did not keep them from showing keen and enthusiastic interest in what was being taught. There were 30+ students enrolled in each of the two courses. Many of them serve as leaders, in some capacity in the churches that they attend and we trust that somehow there will have been things imparted and implanted that will have helped them and will continue to help them in their leadership responsibilities.

We were very grateful for Allison Long, a young lady from Grove, Oklahoma who served as our interpreter. She did a great job and inter-acted very well with the students. There was friendship and bonding between all of us as teachers and students. The students were very respectful and would almost always greet us or say good-bye to us using the Spanish expression, "Dios le bendiga," which in English simply means "God bless you." During our stay, we were invited to a number of the students' homes for meals or we were invited for meals to homes where some of the students were also invited. Always we were graciously received and one of us would usually be asked to say a prayer before the meal. We really enjoyed most of the Mexican dishes set before us even though some of them were quite hot and spicy. Tortillas were a staple and were served in abundance with practically every meal, including breakfast. Before leaving a home, again, one of us was usually asked to pray -- often for a specific need or concern. We would also take this opportunity to ask God's blessing on the home in which we had so graciously been hosted.

Our two weeks in Valles included two Sundays. This meant that in addition to our teaching, we also had the privilege of preaching (again through an interpreter). Cleo and I both preached at the main church right in Valles -- the one that Ezequiel and Veronica pastor -- and also at a mission church, an outreach of the main church, just outside the city.

What a great, enriching and stretching experience! Speaking for myself and I believe for Cleo as well, we left a part of ourselves in Valles. The friendliness and enthusiasm of the students, the hosting and over-all care on the part of Ezequiel and Veronica, and the warmth of the local Mexican people, made this a very

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rewarding and memorable experience. We look forward to going back in November to teach another two courses.

We want to thank all of you who prayed for us, showed interest, and supported us. You all had a part in our mission in Valles.

God bless you,

Winston Penner

All donations should be sent to **Newsong Church** P.O. Box 451839 Grove, Oklahoma 74345 and made out to **Newsong Church**. Mark for **Voice in the Wilderness** in the note area. Do not put Steve's name on the check.

"Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all Christians everywhere." Eph. 6:18b NLT