

November 19, 2009

Dear friends,

Theresa and I greet you from Cd. Valles on a pleasantly cool November 19<sup>th</sup> morning – a very unusual, but much enjoyed change for us. The past weeks have been very busy, but very profitable, and there is much to update you on. At the end of October Theresa and I drove up to the border in order to pick up Kalen Plett, the 18 year old son of our friends Earl and Sharon Plett, of Landmark, Manitoba. Kalen, or K.J. as he is called, is here to help us in setting up the 15 computers that were donated to the vocational school by PowerLand Computers in Winnipeg.

Then on the first of November we drove over to Tampico to pick up Dr. Chuck Nichols, Cleo Yoder, and Ben Funk, who spent the subsequent two weeks teaching the Project L.A.M.B.S. courses “Romans” and “Theology” at the Bible school. Theresa was kept very busy hosting and cooking for four extra men. On The 14<sup>th</sup> we took the L.A.M.B.S. teachers back to Tampico, and they flew home on Sunday morning. The two weeks were a time of blessing for the students as well as the teachers. We look forward to Pastor Fred Erb and his team arriving in January to continue with the next two modules.

Last week Theresa and I were blessed to be able to bring a sort of closure to the former medical work that I did here in the Huasteca region. We packed up what medial materials and useful supplies were still left in the pharmacy, and delivered them to a small Baptist work called the Good Samaritan Clinic, about an hour south of Cd. Valles. It was wonderful to see that these supplies will continue to bring blessing to many needy people.

A new ministry opportunity has recently opened for Theresa and me. As was just stated, when I was here before, I was involved in a ministry with the local, national church in evangelism through medical clinics. This vehicle allowed us to go into villages which would have normally been closed to evangelistic outreaches. I had developed a team who ministered with me in this. Some functioned in the medical areas, and some specifically in evangelism, preaching and prayer. It worked well, and we went into many far-flung communities. One of our functions as a team was to strengthen and encourage the small village churches as well. Many of these have no assistance or visits, and often feel themselves to be somewhat abandoned. By coming and working with them we brought a fresh spark to them.

As you are well aware, the idea of starting to work with medicine again is pretty much out of the question. Yet, there is a need for some sort of ministry tool which would become the avenue which would give us access into the tiny ranchitos and pueblitos again.

With this background in mind, Theresa and I developed the idea of beginning a video ministry. We would head up the technical part, as well as the transportation and organization of the outreach. Working under Pastor Ezequiel’s overall direction, and with a team from the local church which would evangelize and minister in Spanish, we would once again take teams into the tiny villages around the Huasteca area. Using a different tool, we would meet the same objectives – the ability to enter into “closed” communities to evangelize, and to bring the Gospel. We hope to be able to have the funds available to begin this new thrust of the ministry in the new year.

In the end of October I had thought that I had sent out a newsletter. However, due to my less-than-primo technical skills I don’t think that the letter actually was sent. If the letter below looks suspiciously similar to one that you received at that time I apologize. However, as I mentioned, I don’t think that it actually got sent, and there is much that we do want to thank the Lord for...

We arrived back in Cd. Valles at the very end of September, and hit the ground running. As many of you remember from other letters, the electrical wiring here at the church and staff apartment was an unsafe, complete disaster. John and Anna Benoit, a lovely couple who have spent many years since their retirement in volunteer mission work, came to Cd. Valles with us. John is an electrician by trade, and he and I spent two weeks rewiring, running conduit, pounding holes through cement walls, and basically revamping the electrical condition of the whole building. We are blessed to have a building which is not only much safer, but also more adequately wired with plugs which don't trip the breakers anytime more than one thing is plugged in. Thank you John and Anna.

We have some very big praise reports to give you as well. As you will remember from the last letter mailed out in September, we were praying, and believing for the impossible – that we could return to Mexico with the funds necessary to purchase the land for the Bible school and Vocational school. This meant the God would have to provide \$25,000. In all honesty, my faith wavered when I looked at the amount of money that we were praying for. “*But God*”...I think that is a good reminder of who we serve – “*But God*”! We serve a big God. We had not yet arrived in Mexico on our way from Canada, when I received notice from Pastor Fred Erb from Listowel Church in Ontario that the funds had arrived for the complete purchase of the property. Praise the Lord, economic crisis or not, He still sits on his throne and is in control.

God also uses individuals for his work. We want to thank each of you for your generous gifts towards the work. We especially wish to thank the individuals who gave extremely generously towards this need. God knows who you are, and will reward you in kind for your generosity.

We have an agreement on the purchase of a wonderful piece of land, and are now in the process of getting all of the legal paperwork taken care of before we move the money down to make the actual purchase. The board of *Hombres Trabajando por Cristo*, the Mexican non-profit which will cover the Bible school and Vocational school ministry, met on September 28<sup>th</sup> when we arrived in order to begin the process of making sure that it is legally ready to cover the schools. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 5<sup>th</sup> of December we will be meeting in Texas with pastors Ezequiel and Veronica, Maria Luisa and pastor Erb in order to continue the legal preparations. As I already mentioned, the Mexican non-profit has already been set up, but we need to make sure that every “t” is crossed, and every “i” is dotted correctly (or tittled, if you prefer), so that we minimize any problems which we may face in the future.

We feel that it is extremely important that we take time now, at the very beginning of the work, to make sure that everything is legally correct with all of the three governments involved – Mexico, Canada and United States. This takes time, but in the end, the effort will be well worth it, and later problems minimized.

We trust that by the first couple of weeks of December we will own the land, and clearing and preparations can begin for building. Praise the Lord.

We are so grateful for your support in finances, prayers, well wishes, and love. Theresa and I are truly blessed to have such an army of faithful friends praying for us.

May God bless you richly,

Steven & Theresa