

January 1999

Dear Friends,

I bring you greetings from a cold and blustery Manitoba. The temperature recorded -20 degrees Fahrenheit last evening, but it has warmed up considerably today to -10 degrees with snow and overcast skies. Just what the weather should be for the Christmas season.

It has been a joy to be able to spend Christmas with my family in Canada. It has been eight years since we all have been together in one place. All of our children have grown considerably in the intervening years. The only thing that has brought sadness to all of us is that we had to take my father into the hospital on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December. He has had an unidentified, but extremely severe muscle condition which has left him in great pain, and almost paralyzed at times. His heart also seems to be affected by this syndrome. As bad as the timing may have been, I think that we all felt relieved that at least something is now being done to get to the bottom of the problem. Please continue to pray for his full recovery so that he can get back into the saddle in the ministry where God has placed him.

Exciting things have taken place over the past month, and prayers have been miraculously answered. As you are all aware, we have been praying for a vehicle for the work in Mexico. I explained several months ago that there is a great need for a vehicle in order to allow access into the more remote villages. At present pastors Ezequiel and Veronica are restricted to the use of public transportation, such as that may be, in order to reach these villages. Not only has this been time consuming, it is often either unavailable or impossible. Upon returning to Houston from Haiti we were blessed by a call from a good friend who invited us to come over in order to pick up the van that he had purchased for the work in Cd. Valles. The miracle, almost as great as the gift, is that the van is exactly what we would have purchased if given the choice. Praise God for his provision, and thank him for faithful friends who are obedient to his voice.

After arriving back from Haiti we needed to make a quick trip to Cd. Valles in order to spend some time with the church there, and to take down a load of medicine. We were blessed upon visiting with a representative of the Mexican Department of Health to receive two boxes of medicine for the work in Valles. Although the doctor was unable to give us a letter of permission to carry American medicines as we had hoped, her contribution was not only a blessing for the sake of the donation, but also made the crossing of the border very easy. Praise God for the way that he uses very unlikely circumstances for his glory at times. We will attempt to get a letter of permission from the Federal Department of Health in Mexico City at a later date. Please keep this need in your prayers.

We were able to get a large load of medicines and supplies to Cd. Valles without any problem. There, we found that the rooms that are being built for us are as yet uncompleted. They had run out of money, and the construction had bogged down as a result. We had a wonderful time with our friends and were pleased with the construction, even if as yet uncompleted. We left more funds and trust that the building phase will be completed in January.

The day before we left for Canada we got a call from our friend Dr. Skip Lee asking if we are available for the month of February to be a part of a medical team going to Nicaragua. Money was available for medicine if we were able to purchase it. After praying about this we felt that this was a door that God had opened for us. Central America is still reeling from the devastation of hurricane Mitch, and this is a provision for extending the love of Jesus to these hurting people. We will be picking up medicines and supplies on our way back to Houston from Canada in preparation for spending the month of February in Nicaragua.

January will be very full with preparations for this outreach as well as in taking the donated van to the church in Cd. Valles. It is not always a simple thing to be able to take vehicles into another country. Our prayer is that we will be able to sign the van over to Ezequiel without undo problems.

God has been blessing in so many ways over this past month. It is with gratitude and love that I write this letter. I continue to pray that God will bless each of you richly, especially as we face a new year ahead. Please continue to lift me up in your prayers. As I have stated so often, none of the work is possible without the prayers and financial contributions of friends such as you.

Your missionary,

Steven Frey