

June 14, 1999

Dear friends,

It is with deep emotion that I sit down to type this letter. I have just had some precious moments in quietness and prayer and am left with a feeling of awe and longing for more of God's presence in my life. I am reminded of the words of the song which Steven Curtis Chapman sings: "I am speechless; I stand amazed, I am in awe in your presence Lord and I am speechless..." Oh to stand in amazement and awe in God's presence. What better place can we possibly be in?

I am further moved by the faithfulness of you, God's people, in your selfless generosity. Without your love and sacrificial giving we could not continue to serve the poor and needy, and as a consequence, their physical and spiritual needs could not be met. Thank you, and please continue in your faithfulness. It is because of you that little five year old Lulu, an abused and abandoned orphan girl with both legs in full length casts and an infection developing in her body could be treated not only with antibiotics, but also with the tenderness of a caress and love. The sparkle in her eyes as she held the stuffed toys that we gave her told her side of the story much better than any words could have ever done. It is you who made it possible for us to see the woman who had developed complications after being discharged following surgery for pancreatitis and gallstones. Although we did nothing for her medically other than assure her that she was already receiving good care from her doctor, we were able to meet her spiritual needs, and that deep longing for love and assurance that her sins are forgiven and no longer separating her from God was finally actualized. Now, not only is she physically well, but more significantly, she is also spiritually whole as well. There are many, many more examples that I could give, but all would state the very same thing - without you, your love and generosity, none of these lives could have been touched. Thank you.

We were blessed to have the group come down from Paris, Tennessee. Pastor Edgar Adamson and five other men from the church in Paris blessed us with the construction and installation of our kitchen cabinets. For the cabinets we are grateful. Of deeper significance, however, are the lives that were touched as they were able to minister on Saturday and Sunday evening. Times like these make the finances involved in coming down to Mexico pale in comparison to the joy of ministering. Each of the men left "pumped up" and ready to come back as soon as possible. (Incidentally, this is what will happen to you as well. The stomach virus, the sweating, the sunburn, the finances, and all the other inconveniences will all be worth it when you see the fruit of your labor on the mission field).

I have always liked the title of C.S. Lewis' biography "Surprised by Joy". We were surprised and blessed this month by God's generosity. I have been aware for some time now of my personal need for a vehicle that would be substantial enough to serve us in Mexico. I wanted a small van, large enough to be able to carry the passengers and "stuff" that would need to be hauled, but small enough to also be economical. A couple of weeks ago, during the course of a conversation with our close friend and fellow mission's supporter, Dr. Gbaanador, he stated that they had two mini vans and wanted to give one to the work if we could use it. Could we use it? Yes! This was a direct answer to prayer. He did not know my need but God did, and before I even had to ask God had provided. With this blessing I am now able to have transportation available during those times when Doc will not be with me in Mexico. This will allow me to have access into the villages for clinics as well as to be able to have transportation available when people come down to assist in the work. Thank you Lord for your provision, and for faithful friends whose hands you use. Thank you Dr. and Mrs. Gbaanador.

The past two weeks have been a special time for me personally. I just arrived back in Houston with my three children after having spent the time with them in Cd. Valles. We were able to build shelving into our pharmacy and sort and arrange all of our medicines in preparation for the clinics which we are going to be holding. Not withstanding the necessary work, we were also able to take the time to check out some of the local swimming holes and waterfalls, as well as sample some of

the other exciting things in the area. We all had fun, built a deeper relationship with Pastor Ezequiel's family (we went together with their family on a number of excursions, and the kids had great fun together even despite language barriers), and the kids left with a much deeper understanding of what Dad does. James and Diana plan to spend the summer working in Houston while Laura will return to Mexico with me, possibly even assisting us in Nicaragua later this summer.

The rest of the summer will continue to be very busy as well. Our plans are as follows:

- June 17th: Doc returns to Houston from Florida. On Friday he has a medical appointment in a.m. and we leave for Cd. Valles in the evening with Lewis, a friend from Florida.
- Medical clinics and training sessions June 21st, 22nd, and 25th, with work days the rest of the week. Return to Houston on June 27th. Doc needs to return in order to continue with medical follow-up, and I will return since we are all still waiting to hear when my father's heart surgery is to be scheduled. Pending this surgery in Canada I will return to Mexico.
- Clinics in Mexico July 12th through July 17th.
- July 18th: We leave Cd. Valles to drive to Nicaragua in Doc's van.
- July 26th: We arrive in Managua, Nicaragua after having driven through Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua.
- July 28th: Dr. Skip Lee and group from Georgia arrive in Nicaragua. Hold medical clinics along Mosquito Coast area of north eastern Nicaragua July 29th through August 7th.
- August 8th: Dr. Lee and group return to Georgia while Doc and I begin to drive back to Mexico. We arrive in Cd. Valles August 14th.
- August 16th through August 21st we hold clinics in Mexico with Pastor Ezequiel. After this Doc will return to Houston for his own surgery. I will remain in Cd. Valles and continue to work here with clinics and language study.

These are energetic plans and require your continued prayers. Remember our safety in driving through Central America, as well as in the areas into which we will be going. Some of them are not altogether safe. Also, please continue to pray for Doc's health and that God will give him the extra measure of strength to continue to do the work into which He has called him. This is not easy nor comfortable work, and Doc is not a well man. Please hold both of us up in your prayers.

May God bless you richly as together we labor for him.

Your missionary,