

September 2000

Dear Friends,

What a privilege it is once again to share some time with you. It is an honor to know that you are praying for me, and for the work in Mexico, and that I am in your thoughts and hearts. All is well here and God is moving. Let me take a few moments to update you on some of the things that are happening.

In my last letter I wrote that my friends Luis and Patti Jimenez and their family were moving over from Baja California in August to assist in the work in Cd. Valles. Due to an unexpected situation which arose in the Baja at the Christian retreat center and children's work over which they currently have oversight, their relocation to Cd. Valles has been delayed - perhaps until into the new year. As disappointing as this has been for me I still need to rest secure in the fact that God is in control of every circumstance, including those that are frustrating and which bring irritation in our lives. We all continue to remain excited about their move over, and know that they will be a wonderful and "rounding" addition to the work here in the Huasteca.

There has been a very interesting answer to prayer which has occurred within the last month. Without being too graphic, let me describe a condition which has been very distressing to me during my work in the Third World. Many times in our clinics we encounter people whose teeth are completely decayed, green, and basically floating in a sack of abscessed infection. Not a pretty picture really, and I'm sorry if I have offended those of you who are weak of stomach. However, this is the honest truth. The problem often begins in infancy where the mothers will fill a baby bottle with Coke for the child since it is easier to get than milk. Candy is very prevalent and is consumed in large quantities by the children. Often by the time a child has barely grown his baby teeth they are already blackened stubs. Most often dental hygiene is unknown. Coupled with a poor diet the results are disastrous. Besides the cosmetic and painful aspects of these poor teeth, there are medical issues which have concerned me as well. It is obvious that one cannot chew food properly without good teeth, allowing often for improper nutrition. Also, due to the constant pain one is prone towards malnutrition as well. Perhaps one of the most disturbing things for me however, has been the realization that many of the physical problems have been directly due to the constant infection feeding straight into the blood stream and being swallowed into the gut from the dental infections which are so prevalent. Is it any wonder that there are so many systemic aches and pains, such gut disorders, so much low grade fever and the general feeling of malaise and fatigue?

I have realized for a long time that there is the need for dentistry to be a part of the work in the Huasteca but have never known how to proceed with this. The equipment always seemed to be such a prohibitive factor, requiring high-tec chairs and other bells and whistles which were a mystery to me. About a month ago God placed onto my lap a gift which still surprises me. I was introduced to an American missionary who, as it turns out, works just about two hours south of me in the southern region of the Huasteca. He is with a Canadian organization which has been doing dental outreaches into the mountains and outback of this region of Mexico. All their chairs and other equipment is completely portable in nature, and indeed, they have designed everything so that it can be strapped onto the back of a mule to be lugged up the side of a mountain. About two weeks before I was introduced to him the organization had decided that they needed to leave Mexico. It appears as if God's timing is in this whole thing since it was exactly at this time of transition that I arrived asking for dental help and direction in setting up an outreach in dentistry. They have expressed their willingness to give me all the equipment that we will need, plus, get this, train me to function in basic dentistry. Wow! I've never pulled a tooth in my life. The head of the Canadian dental mission will be coming down in the new year to check me out, and hopefully to

begin my training into this new field. Never a dull moment around here. Having said this, however, I would be delighted if a REAL DENTIST would feel that God is directing him/her to come and join the work here in the Huasteca. I am willing to do what must be done if there is no one else, but I would be much happier to hand the chair over to an expert.

There has been much interest expressed in the work, and quite a few people are planning to come down and share in the work. This is a genuine blessing to me. It is always a joy to have people come and bring encouragement. I look forward to having my parents come down for a couple of months this winter as well. It is always a delight to have them come, and to glean from their wisdom and experience. Then, on into the new year, a group from Vanderhoof, British Columbia will be coming down to build a church at a village called Zaragosa. Here there has been a fledgling church for the past several years, but they are in desperate need of a building to meet in. The church at Vanderhoof has been raising funds in order to build this church building, and hope to have the funds together by January. I take my hat off to them as they have accepted this challenge. I know that God will bless them for their sacrificial generosity.

As I have stated so often I will state again - please continue to hold us up in your prayers. Remember to pray for Ezequiel and Veronica as they pastor and provide leadership and covering to the churches. Pray for Luis and Patti as they finish off what needs to be done over in Baja California and prepare to move over to Cd. Valles. Pray that their personal support will begin to come into place and that people will begin to have the burden to commit to their financial support. Pray for me as I do the work that God has placed into my hands. Pray that this whole new and exciting area of dentistry will become a reality. Pray that the finances will continue to come in so that we can continue to be a blessing and a beacon of light in a dark place. Above all, pray that many souls will be freed from the bondage of fear, witchcraft, and idolatry and come into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

You are a vital part of the work, and without you we cannot continue. I love to hear from you as well. I am now linked up to the internet and have e-mail access (most of the time at any rate). If you would like to contact me by e-mail and make sure that I have your correct address I will attempt to keep more frequent contact via the net. Just drop me a note at: [steve\\_frey\\_74@yahoo.com](mailto:steve_frey_74@yahoo.com)

May God bless you richly.

Your missionary,