



MISSIONARIES TO MEXICO



CMF INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2010

Dear Friends in Christ,

We always thank God for all of you, remembering the encouragement and strength that you give us. We praise the Lord for your kindness, your prayers, and your support. You mean a great deal to us and to the ministry. Thank you.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW

If you were to fly over The Eagles neighborhood, which is the site of most of our endeavors, you would see a very drab and unlovely area. There are only a couple of streets that run the length of the hill while the rest of the streets run down the steep grade ending at the now closed landfill. From the bird's-eye view, the streets are dirty and filled with people sorting through the trash that arrives every day in the garbage trucks. The houses are gray and the smell is, well, undesirable.

But a bird's-eye view may be deceiving. You don't see the smile on the faces of the children playing in the streets. You don't hear the students working on their homework and attempting to speak English in the English Club. You might miss the youth leading the worship time on Sunday and the questions they are asking during the Bible studies and home groups.

A bird's-eye view is only good if you zoom in and get a close-up view ...

From Christmas to the end of April, The Eagles church has hosted two marriage seminars, two cookouts for the men in the congregation and their friends, a movie night showing "Fireproof," and continued all their regular Bible studies and prayer meetings. The women from The Eagles church (ICA) joined the women from the Northside church (ICN) in renting a bus to attend the women's retreat in March. We were very excited and pleased that two women from ICA team-taught a workshop at the retreat.

Our regular activities include Ruben Fuentes leading two mid-week classes – a Bible study and a couples' study. The couples' study began the first week of April and had an attendance of 19 people the first evening. I lead two home studies with families interested in studying the scriptures and learning more about Jesus. Kay co-teaches a women's study with Sandra who accepted Christ a little over a year ago.

We recently had the privilege of installing a church board at The Eagles church. Over the last few months the board has received training in their responsibilities and planned activities. The three men, three women, and two youth have really taken to their task and serve well together. Their most ambitious plan thus far is the fourth anniversary of The Eagles church. The date for the celebration was set for April 24 and 25. On Saturday, the children's worship leaders

had activities for the children in the morning. Following that was a cookout for couples, then Hector and Rosy Romo – pastor of the ICN congregation – gave a couples' seminar. In the afternoon the youth enjoyed an Olympics activity with strange games, and finally a movie for everyone. Sunday afternoon we had skits, special music, and baptisms in addition to many of the regular activities.

THE ALAS COMMUNITY CENTER

After many months of preparing documents, visiting offices, and praying together, a Civil Association (AC) was established. This association becomes the cover organization for the Community Center (Centro Comunitario Alas AC). Through the AC, a number of projects are in action to minister to the community.

One day a week there are classes for the children to help them stay in school and be successful in school. Jorsy Fuentes and Joy Jimenez lead the Homework Club, which helps the children understand their subjects and do their homework. If they are struggling with a particular subject, they receive additional attention. The English Club exists to encourage the children and to help them to understand the basics.

The English Club is pretty much a family affair for the Carpenter family. Benjamin helps the youngest children experience English through games, coloring sheets, and playing together. Kay teaches the elementary children using activity sheets, bingo, and other games and



activities. I teach the adults, also using activity sheets, sharing, and some role playing. Rachel Long also helps with the English Club, teaching the advanced students one hour, and middle and high school students the second hour.



In addition, Sandra leads a sewing class for interested women who usually have children attending the clubs.

After several years of studying and planning, what will surely be the most engaging ministry to the community is ready to be implemented on June 5. Known to many as Community Health Evangelism (CHE) – or as we call it in

Spanish, Transformación Integral Comunitario (TIC) – this program mobilizes the neighborhood to improve the community. Around the world CHE is making a difference both physically and spiritually in neighborhoods and communities. We will be utilizing TIC to meet the physical needs in The Eagles community as well as their spiritual needs. TIC will kick off with a Seed Project that is designed to attract attention, involve the entire neighborhood, and give The Eagles ministry team a platform from which to explain the program to the community. The Seed Project is a neighborhood-wide street cleaning day. We will be involving the community leaders as well as different neighborhood organizations.



As you can tell, The Eagles church is involved in ministry that is relevant, impactful, and challenging. The church and her leaders need your prayers in order to successfully reach out to the neighborhood around them.

Two other areas that we need to mention are ICN and the work groups that have visited us. We were pleased to have a college team from Manhattan Christian College in Kansas. They worked hard on a variety of jobs at the Northside Christian Church construction site, as well as helping us with the English Club in The Eagles ministry. We are indebted to Pecos and Lynda Inchausti for sending the team our way. If you are interested in sending a team, please let us know while we are on furlough.

ON THE HOME FRONT

Our greatest joy comes from our children, Natasha and Benjamin. When we left Natasha in Tennessee to attend Milligan College, it was a tearful departure for all of us. But God has been so faithful to us. Natasha adapted to college life with only a few bumps and possibly bruises. Speech class was one of her more challenging endeavors, but she has done so well. She even made the Dean's List! Benjamin has or will soon accomplish a number of firsts. On April 11 Benjamin turned 18! Congrats!! And on June 4, he will graduate

from Mexico City Christian Academy. Ben has been accepted at Milligan, and will join his sister on campus in August.

As far as the parents are concerned, Kay and I are excited for our children and thankful for our upcoming furlough. After five years since our last furlough, we are eager to drop in on our supporting churches and share with them what the Lord has been doing in our midst. We also look forward to seeing family and visiting with friends. This time around we will be saying goodbye to the home we have rented for nine years and packing all our belongings into a small apartment. Packing and moving are not among our favorite activities. We are thankful that a work team from the Embreeville Church will be with us in the days before our departure to help us pack and move our belongings among other activities. And then, on June 16, Natasha, Benjamin, Kay and I – along with Truffles, Cornbread, and Little Bit – will drive out of Mexico City en route to Johnson City, Tennessee.

In closing, please allow us to offer you a few prayer requests.

- For each of us during those final difficult moments of having to say goodbye to friends and loved ones as we leave Mexico for our nine-month furlough.
- For our travels during furlough.
- For the congregation of The Eagles church and her leadership.
- For our summer travels and getting settled into Tennessee.
- For Ben's adjustment to college life and classes.

Steve & Kay
Steve and Kay Carpenter



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