



MISSIONARIES TO MEXICO



CMF INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2010

GREETINGS FROM MINISTRY ROW

Dear Friends,

It has been a while since our last prayer newsletter although, thanks to modern technology, we have kept in touch with many of you. This year has been one of so much change for us. There was no change in our plans to come to Mexico, but the road here had a number of twists, turns, and hard spots.

I struggled a little bit with how best to organize this letter to be able to cover the events of these last months and decided to simply divide this letter into personal and ministry, even though in our lives they seem to overlap quite a bit.

PERSONAL

The biggest hurdle for me (Vic) was the passing of my mom. I was notified by doctors that she would not survive her last stay in the hospital in December, and that it would be a matter of days before she went on. I was able to stay in Corpus Christi for almost a month and she recovered. I was again able to visit in February for several days. She passed in March a few weeks after my last visit. I am grateful for the month of December when I was able to spend time with her and talk and not leave anything unsaid. Therefore, although we were able to visit in February again, we had dealt with closure on my previous visit. I again want to thank you for the many cards, emails, and phone calls I got through the entire time. Such support helped me move through such a trying time.

Pam's hurdle was helping her mom transition into a new home. We are happy that her mom is in a great adult living apartment complex where she has made new friends and has the opportunity for many social events.

The biggest blessing of these months was being able to spend time with our sons and their significant others and the addition to our family. Our son Victor and his wife Machel are new parents and have given us our first grandchild. His name is Victor Robert and here he is with his abuelita.



Rounding out the personal section of this letter is that, thanks to your prayers, advice, and encouragement, I finished my master's degree program and graduated in April.



However, my education road is not finished. I began my doctoral studies in September and need your prayers more than ever. It is an even greater challenge to be able to fulfill

my ministry and family responsibilities and keep up with all the reading and course requirements for this new phase of study. It is exciting and I ask that you join me in praying that I am able to apply what I learn in order to be more useful to the Kingdom.

MINISTRY

Our departure for Mexico was delayed due to an attempt to secure our FM3 visas at the Mexican Consulate in Portland, Oregon. That did not work out for several reasons and after waiting several weeks, we opted to go the typical route of the CMF Mexican Field team and enter Mexico on a tourist visa and apply for our FM3 in Mexico. The trip was divided into three parts. The first was renting a moving truck and hauling our belongings for storage in Phoenix to await the proper paperwork before having them shipped to Mexico. The trip was interesting, to say the least.

We were definitely "cozy," arranging for Pam, me and three dogs in the cab of the moving truck.



It was as comfortable as a three-day trip in a school bus. Taking hills at 35 mph was less than thrilling. The second phase was from Phoenix to McAllen, Texas, to await our teammates who were coming to fetch us. That phase went very smoothly. The travel from the border to Mexico also went smoothly, but since our teammates also had some purchases they made at the border, Pam and I were again "cozy" in the back seat of a Honda Pilot with two suitcases and our dogs for the eleven-hour drive to Mexico. I got a respite when I drove, but Pam got the full eleven hours. Our teammates were great and were patient with our dogs' special needs (two are in wheelchairs).

Our new home is wonderful. God really blessed us with a great house that fits our needs and is close to where Pam will be working. Here is a view down our street.



Along with a new house comes new traffic, which has forced us to allow for more time to get anywhere we are going.



In addition to our new surroundings comes a new ministry focus. We are excited about the new challenges and the way in which the churches here have received us. They have made Pam and I feel at home. Since being here, in addition to visiting several CMF churches, I was invited to attend a men's retreat with the men from



the El Camino church, which is located in the southeast part of the city. The retreat was also attended by men from two churches in Pachuca. The retreat was a breath of fresh air and provided fellowship, teaching, and recreation. I am pictured here with the men from El Camino. These men will be part of

my leadership-training group as the plans for the Bible institute move forward.



Pam continues to explore the best way to help the plans for CHE (Community Health Evangelism) move forward in the area of Las Aguilas. She traveled to Mexico City in March to attend TOT (training of trainers) II and III with other members of the Mexico Field Team and some local church leaders from the Las Aguilas church. Las Aguilas is an urban poor area of Mexico City where the Mexico Field Team has planted a church and a community center. At this juncture Pam and the national leadership at Las Aguilas need to decide how to help CHE advance. At the same time, Pam keeps busy networking and getting to know more women at different churches to see in what other ways she can be useful to the work of the field team.

PRAYERS AND PRAISES:

Praises:

- *The birth of our grandson Victor Robert.*
- *My graduation with an M.A. in intercultural studies.*
- *Our safe arrival in Mexico City.*
- *The great house God provided.*
- *Finding a good deal on a car.*

Prayers:

- *Vic's doctoral studies.*
- *Discernment on how Pam can best proceed with CHE.*
- *The remaining outgoing funds still needed.*
- *Discernment for me as I prepare lesson plans to meet the training needs expressed by several church leaders.*

Pam and I felt better prepared for the furlough that just ended than for previous furloughs, yet it was still very difficult due to a number of emotional drains. We could not have made it without your prayers, your words of encouragement, or the wonderful support we got from too many folks to mention by name. The cottage provided by Tigard Christian Church allowed us to alleviate the financial deficit with which we began our furlough. All of our supporting churches made us feel at home when we stopped by. We played golf with some and Settlers of Catan with others. And the list could go on and on. We love you guys and are continually buoyed by your prayers and the knowledge that you are in our corner. You bring Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 to life. We will continue to strive to be good stewards of your trust.

Vic & Pam

Vic and Pam deLeón

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