

Merry Christmas!

December, 2006

Praise to our God and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate this glorious Christmas season! We wish you and your families all a very Merry Christmas, and urge you to spend time praising our wonderful and good God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who alone is worthy of adoration.

Arrival

We have arrived in beautiful Colima, Mexico, and have just recently found a house to rent. God answered our prayers in such an awesome way!

The first 2 weeks we could find little in the way of rental housing available for what we were looking for. Many people are moving into town and renting up much of the available housing. What was available was either too small or not in very good condition. After exhausting our 2 week limit for our stay in a hotel, we were discouraged.

Difficult Decisions

We also had some decisions to make. Do we look for somewhere to stay temporarily and trust that God provide a house where He wants us to rent, or do we rent one of the smaller houses we had looked at? What would you do? Couldn't God just speak from heaven and tell us? Have you ever felt like that?

But, often it's in those times that God knows we are most open to listening to Him and what He wants to teach us. This was one of those times. We kept praying and knew that many of you were praying as well. We sensed it was the Lord's Will to wait on His timing, so we kept looking.

God's Answer

The Lord opened up an opportunity for us to stay with a single missionary college student in an extra room in his apartment while we kept looking at houses. Our whole family slept on mattresses on the floor. A few days later we had a few more houses to look at. The house we ended up renting was a new house under construction. We had to wait 2 more weeks to move in while it was being finished.

God's Salvation

Meanwhile, in God's providence He lead Laura, our Christian Mexican friend, Deliegha, and Jeff to share the gospel with the night watchman at the house worksite. The man's name was Bernardino, and we noticed one night that he was reading the Bible. We asked him about what he was reading. It turns out he was reading the Bible and comparing it to a book that the Jehovah Witnesses had given him. God had given him the discernment to see that the Bible contained the truth, but that the Jehovah Witness book did not. When Laura shared the gospel message with Bernardino he readily prayed with us to repent of his sin and receive Jesus Christ as his only Savior from sin. Bernardino went home the next day and shared what happened in his life with his wife, Alejandra. She also prayed to receive Christ.

God's Sovereignty

God had bigger plans than just us finding a house to rent. He sovereignly arranged events so that we would be there that day looking at that particular house to talk with Bernardino, the night watchman. Satan had meant to discourage us in the difficulty of not finding a house right away, but God meant it for good. God set up the divine appointment with Bernardino, which resulted in both Bernardino and Alejandra beginning a new life as born again believers in Jesus Christ.

New Small Group

In between unpacking boxes, buying furniture, and setting up utilities, we have begun visiting Bernardino, Alejandra and their two young children to encourage them in the Christian faith. They have agreed to host a weekly Bible group meeting in their home and to invite their neighbor. We will teach them to pray, to sing praises to God, and to study the Bible together.

Other Christian Churches/Groups in Colima

We are seeking God's direction and guidance as we put together a plan for the ministry in Colima. God has already given us work to do with discipling Bernardino and Alejandra.

We also have been attending a small house church that Laura attends in her parent's house. This house church was started by another missionary family, who worked here in Colima last year. Laura's family just moved to a new home in Villa del Alvarez (this city is connected to Colima to the west). It currently has 5 to 8 attendees.

We have also visited another house church we recently discovered also in Villa del Alvarez. The pastor's name is Edgar and there are about 30-35 attendees.

There are also 2 other small Baptist house churches we have heard of, and 1 small Baptist church with a building. There is also a Presbyterian church, and several Pentecostal churches, one of which is large.

And of course there are dozens of Catholic churches. Over 90% of the people here in Colima consider themselves to be Roman Catholic.

Prayer Requests

Please keep these following items in prayer. When you see the sun shining, remember sunny Mexico and lift these items up in prayer:

1. Pray for God's guidance as we put together a ministry plan for Colima over the following weeks.
2. Praise God for the conversion of Bernardino and Alejandra. Pray that Bernardino's work schedule will stabilize to allow us to meet at least weekly for the home group meeting.
3. Pray that the members of the group in Bernardino's home will grow in their knowledge of Jesus Christ and that this group would be the beginnings of a new church.
4. Pray for the house church with Laura's family to grow and reach out to their neighbors in their new neighborhood.
5. Pray for the rest of our belongings to make it through customs and arrive at our house soon. Pray that we can unpack and set up our new home. Decisions need to be made on what furniture we need to buy.