

Praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose birth we just celebrated this last Christmas season! He alone is worthy of our praise and adoration! Join us in praising Him and dedicating ourselves anew to loving and serving him in 2009.

**God's Marvelous Timing**

( Ecclesiastes 3:1) tells us that there is a time for everything. This fall that meant to wait on the Lord before we saw growth in the church we were trying to plant. First, a time of reconciliation and focus on the Lord was needed in several of the families. These broken relationships grieve God, and He wants families to be reconciled (1 Cor 7:11).

One of those families was Marcos's family. After a lengthy marital separation, Marcos and his wife came back together again. Last year Marcos placed his trust in Christ for salvation.

After his wife returned in the spring, Marcos suspended the church group meetings in his home to dedicate himself to his relationship with his wife. This time was very important to the reestablishment of close relational ties and for reconciliation. Marcos and I did continue to meet one-on-one for discipleship, and he learned to share his testimony and a gospel presentation with his wife. Also important was the changes she could see that The Lord had made in Marcos's life.

In October, Susana prayed to receive Christ. Soon after, the family agreed to start meeting again for weekly church meetings in their home. A few weeks later, their youngest daughter prayed to receive Christ. The Lord had brought about a beautiful reconciliation of the family, and every one of the family has made a profession of faith in Christ. It was all in God's timing.

Pray for the new believers to be encouraged and built up in the faith. They are just learning how to live to honor the Lord. They are facing problems, one of which is the loss of Marcos's job.

**Baptisms**

On Sunday, Nov. 16, Marcos and I had the privilege of baptizing 5 believers in Christ in a river just outside of Colima, Mexico. These five persons were Susana, Maria Jose, Fernando, Eric, and Emanuel. Afterwards, we enjoyed a time of Christian fellowship by sharing a potluck meal and enjoying the day at the river. You can see photos of the baptism on our website posted at the bottom of this letter.

**New church formed**

On Sunday, Nov. 23 we held our first joint church service, bringing together people from our three home groups. There were 11 adults and 5 children present and we met in our home. The cell groups continue to meet during the week in different homes. Our focus is to equip each member to minister and use his gifts and talents to evangelize the lost and disciple new believers, glorifying the Lord in the process.

Discipleship occurs one-on-one, in the small group, and in the larger group on Sundays. The people are responding well to the start of the Sunday service. We have been focusing on unity of the church and we celebrated the Lord's Supper together on the first Sunday of December. Jeff is preaching and Deliegha is teaching Sunday school until we can train up leaders.

### **Prayer Requests**

We are so excited about what the Lord is doing here in Colima! Thank you for praying for us and the ministry. Please join us in praying for the following requests:

1. Pray for the new believers to grow in Christian maturity. Pray for Susanna, Maria Jose, Fernando, Eric and Emanuel. Pray for others to be baptized this year.
2. Bring Marcos and Bernardino before the Lord as they learn to lead a home group. Pray for the Lord to raise up a leader for the Real Centenario group that Jeff can train.
3. Pray for worship leaders to be raised up for each home group. We will soon be starting guitar classes for interested persons to lead worship in each group.
4. Pray for a university student cell group to be started again.
5. Praise God that baby Titus has taken his first steps. His clubfoot continues to heal and does not seem to affect his ability to walk.

Thank you for giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and the Cooperative Program. The Lord uses these offerings to support us and other missionaries sent out by Southern Baptist Churches.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ,

Jeff, Deliegha, Charissa, Lois, and Titus Swanson

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