

Swanson Prayer Letter June, 2007

Hello everyone! Greetings from the Swanson family! Thank you for keeping us in your prayers. We have been active and busy in ministry in Colima, Mexico since we wrote our last prayerletter.

2 Church starts

We have 2 small home groups that we meet with every week in Colima. We hope that these groups will grow into new churches. We are modeling how a church operates every week. We conduct a church service in people's homes which includes prayer, worship, Bible Study, and fellowship time. We are teaching the new believers to pray and to share the Good News of salvation in Christ. They are learning to sing Christian songs. Most importantly, they are learning to study the Bible and how to teach others the Bible. We have been teaching one group the major Stories of the Bible. The other group has been learning basic Christian doctrine for new believers. We are practicing the observance of the two ordinances, the Lord's Supper and Believer's Baptism.

Marcos/Lord's Supper (March)

In March, we celebrated the Lord's Supper for the first time. We invited people from both church starts to participate. 13 adults came to partake of the Lord's Supper. One girl's father, Marcos, wanted to come, but he wasn't even a follower of Christ. We went to visit him and explained to him that one needs to be a believer in Christ to take the Lord's Supper. We shared with him what the Bible teaches about how one becomes a Christian, that he must repent of his sins and trust in Christ alone for his salvation from sin and death. He readily prayed with us to receive Christ as his Savior and Lord, and his life has been changed. He was also able to partake of the Lord's Supper with us that evening. What a wonderful conclusion to the day!

3 Baptisms (May 6)

The Lord gave us the opportunity to baptize 3 new believers. Marcos, Bernardino and Alejandra were baptized in a river outside Colima on May 6. Bernardino was the man who worked on the construction of the house we rent, and Alejandra is his wife. Bernardino prayed to receive Christ after a Christian friend and we shared the Good News with him. Alejandra prayed to receive Christ after Bernardino returned home and told her what had happened to him. Both have showed a remarkable change in their lives after coming to know Christ. They want to impart the Christian faith to their children.

University student retreat

We have been helping a young student missionary, Nate, to strengthen a college ministry group he has started. There have been up to 14 students involved in weekly

meetings. Jeff took 6 university students on a retreat to Queretero from March 31-April 3. There were over 100 people present. It was a good time for teaching, discipleship and fellowship. For most of the students it was the biggest gathering of Christians they had ever seen.

We drew closer together through the fellowship and through a trial we endured on the way home. While in an evening church service, the van was broken into and all of the suitcases were stolen. Most of the next day was spent finding a place to temporarily fix the van window until we could get a new window ordered. But, all made it back to Colima late the next evening.

Georgia team (June 2-6)

>From June 2-6, a small team from Conyers, Georgia helped us to distribute 1800 gospel of John booklets door-to-door. On three evenings we invited people to evangelistic film showings. The first two nights we had a low turnout for the movie, but the last night we had about 40 people in attendance. We showed the film at a public park.

Family News (New baby expected Nov. 16)

We are expecting a baby boy and the due date is Nov. 16! We were all pleasantly surprised to learn of this new addition to the Swanson family. Deliegha has had some nausea the first three months, and some pains in her back, but both her and the baby are doing fine otherwise. We praise God for this baby and that we have found a doctor that we feel comfortable with in Colima.

Charissa is finishing up 3rd grade in home school. She does especially well in reading and science. She has the best Spanish accent in the family. Off and on she has had some problems with an irritating skin infection, which seems to be aggravated by the heat. She enjoys riding her bike and going to the playground. Please keep her in your prayers.

Lois is doing well and will be starting kindergarten in the fall. She enjoys coloring, playing board games, and going to the playground.

Prayer Requests

1. For Marcos, Bernardino, Alejandra and the two home groups they are involved with to mature and grow. Pray for leaders to be raised up for these groups.
2. Pray for a college ministry to be firmly established in Colima at the state university. Pray for Pepe M., as Jeff continues to train him to be a leader.
3. Pray for God to work in the hearts of those who received a gospel of John booklet from the evangelistic outreach in early June.

4. Praise God that we are expecting the birth of a baby boy in November! Pray for Deliegha and the baby for a smooth pregnancy and a healthy birth.

Thank you for praying for us and for those giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and Cooperative Program, the means the Lord has used to support us and other Southern Baptist missionaries on the field.

In Christ,

Jeff, Deliegha, Charissa, Lois Swanson
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