

March 31, 2009

We Wouldn't Have Missed that for Anything!

So many things have happened in this month of March in the Central Mexico Mission District that we just had to share some of them with you.

A couple from the Coapa church plant have decided to start a fellowship group in their home so that people from their neighborhood can also share in their study of the Bible. One evening the regular pastor could not be there, so he asked us to go in his place. The host couple is very in tune with the needs of their neighbors. One day Irene (the wife) saw a neighbor getting off the bus and realized that her face showed great sadness. Irene invited her to attend the Saturday evening service. The new woman has shown great interest in the studies. Each week that she attends, one of the ladies takes time to talk with her and explain the Bible in detail. We wouldn't have missed that for anything!

A mission service group from the United States that works with the residents of various garbage dumps around the world often asks us to join them to help with translation when they bring a volunteer team down to Mexico. We have worked with them several times recently. One day, our pastor's wife and we were traveling by bus to join the team. As we rode along, the three of us were chatting back and forth. Another woman on the bus overheard our conversation and asked, "Are you Christians?" What fun to meet with another member of the Family of God! As she got off the bus, she gave each of us a cup of fancy Jello and asked God's blessing on us. She sells these cups of Jello to earn money each day, so we know that her gift was really an offering to God. We wouldn't have missed that for anything!

The daughter of a pastor friend was married this month. Both Gary and the District Director had a part in the service. The Director unexpectedly asked the couple to tell the two sets of parents how much they were appreciated. It was a beautiful part of the ceremony. What a joy to see this young couple ready to start their own family centered around Christ. We wouldn't have missed that for anything!

Towards the end of March, a pastor from Northern Mexico came to the city for surgery on a mass on his neck. They still have small children at home, so his wife was not able to come with him as they had hoped. A couple ladies from our local congregation and we acted as his family on the day of the operation. The surgeon said the mass was an old hematoma and was able to debulk about fifty percent of it. Although the biopsy reports are not back on the specimen tested, the surgeon feels confident that there was no cancer involved. Please pray for the continued and complete healing of Pastor Juan Manuel. We wouldn't have missed the opportunity to serve as his family for one day!

We are here, able to participate in these kinds of activities, because of your Christian love and concern and your sacrificial giving. Our home state is Michigan, and we are very aware of the severe downturn in the economy there, and in all parts of our country. However, a recent check of commitments to our Missionary Support Account for this

year shows that we are at almost 60 % of our proposed budget. If there is any way that you can help us in reaching our goal, we would be most grateful.

To give through the mail:

If you wish to give through the mail, please make your check payable to Free Methodist World Missions and send it to: Free Methodist World Missions, PO Box 535002, Indianapolis, IN 46243-5002. Add this note on the check's memo line: Allen MSA #WMS068.

To give online:

To give online, go to www.fmwm.org and click on "Missions Connect" at the bottom navigational bar. Choose Gary and Jann Allen from the list of Missionary Support Accounts.

In His Glad Service in Mexico City and Beyond,

Gary & Jann Allen