

Feb. 27, 2008

ALLEN FEBRUARY, 2008, UPDATE

February 14 is a special day in Mexico, as it is in other parts of the world. They call it "The Day of Love and Friendship." We have truly felt that sentiment as we have passed through this unusual month.

The month started with two great things. First, our son, Tim, called from California to say that he was on his way to visit Mexico. We were pleased to have him and his girlfriend, Judith, in our home for a Sunday dinner. Also our e-mail box and postal box were filled with lovely birthday greetings for Jann. Thank you so much for words of encouragement and friendship.

The downside of the month happened on Sunday, February 2, when both of us came down with a severe case of the flu. It has taken most of the month to recover and get back into the "full swing" of our ministries. Thank you for your prayers, even when you don't realize the great need we may have at any particular time.

Several new and exciting things have happened this month too.

-- Janette Miller has opened their home to a Women's club for the church and neighborhood women. It is drawing many women and meeting various needs. Since we will probably be moving into that house when the Millers are on home assignment, Jann has also been an active member of the club.

--Another round of English classes has started. Jann teaches the basic class, Gary helps with whatever level is needed. Through the classes we have made a contact to help a university student with English needed for an economics class. Jann's students showered her with candy on the "Day of Love and Friendship."

--We opened our guest room to two different couples this month. What a great chance to renew friendships!

--A VISA team from Peterborough, Canada has been here for the last week and a half. They have been a huge help finishing up several construction projects at the Tizoc (our oldest church in Mexico City) and presenting some exciting and entertaining programs for the children. The roof of the church parsonage was leaking. They discovered some termite damage in the process of repairing the roof.

The damaged roof supports have been replaced and the infected areas have been treated for the termite problem. Just a few of the tiles needs to be replaced and they have been ordered. We have made new friends during their stay and they have helped the Tizoc church make a number of new contacts in the area.

--The COAPA church plant celebrated its first anniversary with a potluck dinner celebration. (The truth is we have a potluck dinner the first Sunday of every month anyway to celebrate the birthdays of the members during the last month. The anniversary celebration may have guaranteed a bigger or better dessert selection!)

In His Glad Service in Mexico City and area,

Gary & Jann Allen