

June 3, 2009

We Were Touched

The highlight of May for us was our trip to the Yucatan Peninsula. We spent several days in Campeche, where we worked during our first term in Mexico, and we spent a weekend in Ticul, where another Free Methodist church is located. In each place we were touched by the people there who are part of the family of God and part of our circle of friends.

We were touched by the deep friendship of a member of the Mexico City church who is a taxi driver and offered to take us to the airport for the trip, even though he had to get up VERY early in the morning to, and drive in traffic and a fairly heavy rain to do so.

We were touched by the care of the hotel manager who presented us with some fresh mangos for our breakfasts. We always stay in the same hotel as the owner and managers have become special people in our lives.

When we boarded a city bus, the driver held out his hand to Jann. She thought he wanted the fare for the bus, but when she looked up, she saw that it was a good friend of ours driving the bus. After joyful greetings, we were touched when he refused to accept payment for our ride.

As we wandered around town, we were touched by our previous next-door-neighbor who gave us a discount on our meal in her little restaurant, by another neighbor who drove us back to the hotel rather than let us walk in the heat of the day, by invitations to meals in homes, and by the welcome we received from everyone. In Ticul, we were touched by the joyful chorus of the Sunday school children and by little gifts from a couple of them, by meals in homes, and tears of friendship among them.

We arrived in Campeche in time to attend the youth meeting on Saturday and then Sunday school and evening service on Sunday. Monday through Thursday, Gary taught a leadership class, which was fun for everyone, as well as giving them some good tools for helping out in the church.

On Friday evening, we were asked to present a marriage workshop. I must say that we were a little disappointed when only the pastor and his wife and one other couple showed up. We should always remember that God has a better plan than we do, and before the night was over, it was obvious that this particular couple needed the counsel and attention of both the pastor and us in private. We were touched as they shared their story and we were able to talk and pray with them.

While in Ticul for the second weekend of our trip, Gary led a men's gathering. He has been with them in the past, and has helped them find adequate study materials, so it was a

good evening to connect in person. Jann taught an English lesson on Sunday morning after Sunday school, and Gary preached in the evening. We were touched when we saw the little church fill to the brim and when we heard the good words people had to share about how God is working in their lives.

We are always touched and surprised when we look into our Missionary Support Account and see the names that are there as donors to our account. We are totally trusting God to fulfill our need, but it is pleasant to see the way so many of you are helping. While we were in Ticul, a six-year-old girl, whom we have known since she was a baby, slipped 5 cents into my (Jann's) hand. "What is this?" I asked. "A gift for you," she replied with a smile. I thought about what it meant for her to give up her own personal money, and I realized that she must have felt touched by God to do so. Every gift counts and we will treasure the coin that she so freely gave.

We are grateful for each financial gift that allows us to continue our ministry in central/southern Mexico. If you are interested in contributing to our Missionary Support Account, please follow this link: 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.

We pray that you feel His special touch in these days.

In His Glad Service,

Gary & Jann Allen
Mexico City