

Cuernavaca Newsletter

August, 2011

August 10, 2011

Dear Ministry Partner,

Wow! Summer is almost over. I went to the U.S. June 30 and flew back to Mexico on August 4. As I look back over my time in the U.S., it went so quick. I cannot help but be amazed how the Lord, as always, provided everything I needed.

I needed a car in Chicago and in the Portland / Vancouver area; and sure enough, friends were out of town and gladly lent me their cars to use. I stopped taking my laptop when I travel because of the hassle of going through airport security. Again, in both cases the Lord provided me a laptop to use when I needed one. Praise His name! He is Jehovah-Jireh (Provider).

It is hard to believe that come December 2011, I will have completed seven years as a missionary to Mexico. In Scripture, the number seven represents the number of completion. As I look back, I can see how God completed a great work in me in seven years.

Here are seven things I am very grateful for in the last seven years of being in Mexico:

1. Clear vision of what I am supposed to be doing in Mexico. Back in 2004, I thought I would be part of a church planting team. That door never opened. In 2007, I thought I would work with indigenous groups in Chiapas. That door closed. It was only in 2009, after being told to stay in Cuernavaca and not go to other areas of Mexico or Latin America because of constant bouts with infectious illnesses, the Lord opened my eyes that here in Cuernavaca is His place for me. Evangelizing and discipling faithful women who would go and teach others



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- became my clear focus.
2. Clear understanding that my worth, value and significance comes from the fact that Jesus Christ paid a great price for my soul on the cross. His shed blood on the cross is what gives me value---priceless!!! Ministry results, recognition, high or low financial support, or marital status is not the basis of my worth as a missionary, or as a woman for that matter. God's love for me that caused Him to give His own Son to die on the cross is where I get my worth.
 3. A better understanding of what it really means to be a missionary. Yes, we go out into the world to win souls for God, but the heart of the matter is really loving God, practicing His presence, being full of the Holy Spirit and always opens to what He is doing on a moment by moment basis. I have memorized John 15:5 both in Spanish and English. The part I love best is, "without me you can do nothing." How so... so... true!!!
 4. A true appreciation of God's faithfulness. He is who He says He is. His Word never fails. The Word says, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." How true that He is able to provide all I need. In the end, He is truly the only One I need.
 5. A sense of belonging to a privileged group called servants of the Living God as a result of gratitude to Him for what He has done for us. Mark 10:45 tells us that Jesus came to serve and not be served, to the point that He gave His life as a ransom for many. I am in Mexico to serve. At this point, He has not asked me to die physically, but we do have to die in our flesh as we serve others. Luke 9:23 is embedded in my brain, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me." What a joy and privilege to be part of that close circle of servants and Master, like the 12 disciples who had the great privilege to be with Jesus those three years! I too have the joy of knowing what it means to follow Jesus together with others who have also given up home, family, career and other pursuits to follow the One who called us His own.
 6. Continuing awe that despite my weaknesses God is able to use me for His glory. I certainly do not have perfect Spanish. I do not have a perfect understanding of the Mexican culture. I still commit cross-cultural

blunders (although less and less I hope). But through it all, the Lord is gracious and able to help me. I praise His name!

7. Continuing sense of joy when I see others come to know the Lord, due to how He orchestrates time, events and situations! Many times I just "happen" to be in the right place and I know He is doing something – calling people to His kingdom. Mexico is ripe for the spiritual harvest. What a joy to be part of what He is doing here for eternity. I hope to persevere until He calls me to something else or calls me home.

Thank you for your continuing partnership with me.



Ministry Partners ~ Crossroads Community Church

Your love, prayers and financial support will enable me to start this fall ministry season with great expectations that God will do boundless things only He can do.

Sincerely,

Angie Velasco