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Angie Velasco
Av Pso del Conquistador
No 318
Depto A-1 Col
Lomas de Cortez
Cuernavaca, Morelos
Mexico CP 62240

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Cuernavaca News

Happy New Year! I am in Murrieta Springs, CA for the first week of the year to attend the annual Calvary Chapel Costa Mesa Mission Conference. The theme of the conference is "*I will Build My Church.*" I fly back to Mexico on Saturday, January 7.

As I reflect on the events of 2011, I cannot help but think of the "thumbs up" and "thumbs down" events that transpired.

Here are some of the "thumbs up" events:

1. Excellent health. For the second year in a row since I started working as a missionary, I had excellent health. Praise God!
2. Seven faithful ladies. Although an eighth lady had to drop for health reasons, the Lord gave me the privilege to disciple seven faithful ladies. Praise God!
3. Salvation of my neighbor Q on September 2011. I met Q last year through another neighbor. The Lord used the illness of her dad to bring her to a crisis and at her point of crisis, she stopped by my apartment. I prayed for strength for her and the

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www.angievelasco.org
angievelasco.blogspot.com
Facebook: Angie Velasco
Skype: angie.velasco

health of her dad. Her dad got better. She was impressed with how God answered my prayer. This gave her the interest to attend my weekly Bible study. On the very first Tuesday that she came, I presented the Bridge salvation illustration. She repeated the sinner's prayer after me in front of all the regular ladies that attend. Her hunger for God's Word was very evident from that evening on. She recently attended our church for the first time on December 11 – three months after receiving Christ as her Savior! Praise God!

4. My missionary circle. In January 2011, the Lord gave me the privilege to start a women's missionary circle. Five missionaries meet regularly to pray and encourage each other, which has been a great blessing and encouragement to me! Praise God!
5. My Bible storytelling class in Puebla. In October 2011, I started the class on Bible storytelling at Puebla Biblical Seminary. Statistics show that up to 70% of Latin Americans are oral-visual learners. This class helped me understand why many women do not complete our Bible study lessons. I am enjoying the class tremendously and started using the principles I am learning in my weekly Bible studies. I have seen a greater amount of participation as a result of the Bible stories. Praise God!

Here are my "thumbs down" events:

1. In April 2011, I witnessed the horrible medical management of a patient who had surgery. The patient died. I was in shock for a few weeks and had to grapple with the reality of how poor people are treated. It was a very low point in my life. For a few weeks, I was dragging myself to lead Bible studies and prayer meetings – knowing it was the right thing to do. Praise God, He lifted me up from my pit!
2. In September 2011, I had to ask one gal to leave my group. It was a very difficult thing to do because I had to exercise my authority to protect the rest of the ladies in the group. This gal consistently showed disrespect and lack of interest

in the Bible studies. She would paint her nails during our prayer meetings and would be gone for a long time during the Bible study, which left me wondering why she came. I consulted my team leader, who advised me to give this gal the option to join another group. I did what I was told to do. Whew!!!

3. In November 2011, my 17-year-old car started leaking oil and transmission fluid and I was without a car for three weeks. The car was moving from one repair shop to another, because I did not know which mechanic to believe. The third mechanic said he replaced the steering box. I thought it would be ok then, but it continued to leak oil and transmission fluid. I decided to just let it leak, because I don't want to spend any more money on repairs. Right now, before driving the car, I just check both the oil and transmission fluid. If the levels are low, I add what it needs. I carry a liter each of oil and transmission fluid in my trunk. At some point, I will have to raise money to buy a new/used car. If God moves you to give \$\$, please designate the gift to A. Velasco – Mexico, car fund.
4. One of the faithful ladies, G, in my Bible study group was diagnosed with cancer. G. has been part of my group for the last two years. It is devastating to see her lose her hair because of chemotherapy. I get close to these ladies, and when they suffer, I too suffer. Would you pray for God to heal her?

You may receive my weekly prayer alerts by signing up at CuernavacaPrayerTeam-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

I am looking forward to the many blessings and challenges of 2012! 1 Thessalonians 5:24 says, "*He who calls you is faithful, who also will do it.*" I know God will go before me, is with me and able to use all things for His glory whether they be "thumbs up" or "thumbs down." He is a faithful God.

Sincerely,

Angie Velasco

Cuernavaca Newsletter
www.angievelasco.org

