

November 09 Update

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November in Mexico



Decorated sugar skulls



Pan de Muerto (bread of the Dead)

While we think of Thanksgiving in the U.S. when November comes around, the Day of the Dead is celebrated here with much anticipation on November first. One month before this day, a special bread called *Bread of the Dead* starts appearing in bakeries and supermarkets. It is fluffy raised bread with sugar on top. You can buy it in different sizes at different prices. All kinds of candies to celebrate death also appear in the stores. These include skeleton skulls in different sizes. Many Mexicans believe that the spirits of their dead loved ones come to visit around this time so they decorate their homes with all the favorite items of the dead person. Some folks decorate their front doors with the clothing of the dead person, coke, tortilla, tequila, water, salt, cigarettes and all kinds of other stuff that the dead loved one used to enjoy on earth while he/she was alive.

How different from what Scripture teaches us!

As a missionary, sometimes I struggle with cultural lies. Every culture has its own set of lies that each generation passes on to the next. I was eating last Sunday with two non-Christian friends. They explained the way the Mexicans celebrate the Day of the Dead. As I listened, I kept thinking to myself . . ."This is really the enemy minimizing what death really is. Death is eternal separation from God. It is not just a passing from one state of being to another." I was silent as they explained the celebration to me. I did not want to openly contradict what their culture had dictated to them for years and years.

There have been times where I had openly given my Biblical views and as a result ended up in a heated argument. I learned the hard way

that people are won to Jesus as they hear the truth, and usually in the context of a loving and non-threatening relationship, not by winning arguments over cultural issues.

Would you pray for me to be wise and loving yet bold in confronting the cultural lies I am faced with day after day?

As always, thank you for your love, prayers and support.

Please send gifts to Crossroads Community Church.

7708 N.E. 78th St. Vancouver, WA 98662

Kindly designate gifts for A. Velasco - Mexico.

You can donate on line by logging on to www.angievelasco.org, go to "Get Involved" and click on the donate button. Gracias!