



Cuernavaca Newsletter

November 1, 2011



Dear Ministry Partner,

Happy Thanksgiving! This is one holiday I miss the most being here in Mexico. I miss the fall colors, the cool crisp air and the excitement of new beginnings for sports seasons. I've had my share of new beginnings since we started this ministry season.

For the first time in my missionary life, I had no place to do my Bible studies. Our church started a school last year and the house we rent for our small group Bible studies, is now filled with classrooms, chairs and tables for the children, computers and school office equipment. My pastor decided all small groups should meet in homes. My apartment is not exactly a suitable place to meet since I live on the north side of town and most of the ladies live in the central and southern area of the city. I gathered my small group to pray. I requested prayer from my valuable prayer team and checked out different places.

The first Tuesday of the season we met in a restaurant. It was very noisy with traffic, customers talking, cell phones ringing and loud music. The second Tuesday, we met at a cake/coffee shop. I really liked this place, but one gal said

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it was far from her bus stop and considering we end at 8:00 PM, I decided this was not God's place for us. We continued to pray. For a while, we felt like nomads wandering from place to place each week. Every Monday I had to text everyone as to where we were meeting. I wanted a place was centrally located, quiet, accessible to the main bus routes, spacious, enough lighting, with parking, and free. The Lord knew the perfect place. I visited one hotel in town that we've used for our women's conferences. I spoke to the hotel administrators and they wanted 100 pesos (\$10) per person. No one in my small group can pay this every week. I thought... "Okay, the Lord is able to make a way when there is no way."

I asked our assistant Women's Ministry leader to negotiate for me, and sure enough, the Lord opened the door. The hotel administrators agreed to let us use one room and only asked us to buy coffee/tea/ soft drinks and snacks. Wow! That would cost 20 pesos (\$2)! That is more affordable than \$10 per week per person. Praise God, we've been meeting in this hotel four weeks now. The hotel is centrally located, with a beautiful scenic view, accessible to the main bus routes, with enough parking for two cars (the rest of the women walk or take public transportation), spacious, but poor lighting. I re-arranged the chairs and tables to maximize the available light we have. **Wow! My first time to do weekly Bible studies in a hotel!** I am praying the Lord would use my small group to share Christ with hotel guests who may be in need of a Savior.

I am forming wonderful relationships here with indigenous women from different parts of Mexico. They come to Cuernavaca to work and are poor with very little education. I noticed the Bible study materials we currently use are not interesting for them. I started praying and looking for Bible study materials that would spark an interest for these women. Amazingly, I came across different organizations that use Bible story telling to evangelize indigenous groups. The Lord opened the door for me to take a class at the Biblical seminary in Puebla. Puebla is a state about three hours from Cuernavaca. To make a long story short, a friend got me connected with the Bible storytelling course in Puebla. It will be the last Wednesday to Saturday of each month for eight months. I started the course on October 26-29. **Wow! My first time to take a course in a Biblical seminary in Mexico!** Who knows what God will do after this training! I am excited and the ladies in my small group are also excited. I printed a sheet of Bible stories that we read on Sundays after we eat lunch. I also found an illustrated Spanish Bible with colorful pictures that one indigenous gal really liked.

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Interestingly, this Bible was printed in S. Holland, IL. I have a good friend and faithful supporter living in S Holland, IL. Isn't that amazing?????

Another new beginning is my application process with different not-for-profit mission organizations. I sat down with my pastor last Friday to talk about my growing administrative needs. We agreed that churches do not have the staff to handle the many administrative needs of a missionary; this is one of the functions of missions organizations. I have the blessing of my pastors (James Foote and Ralph Cassel) to go ahead and apply with a few organizations, but will continue working in Cuernavaca under Pastor James Foote. My vision to evangelize and disciple faithful, available, and teachable Mexican women will not change. The thing that would change in the future is how my letters and donations are handled. For now, Crossroads Community Church will continue handling my finances until I am accepted as a missionary with a mission agency. I will surely keep you posted. Please ask the Lord to lead me to the right mission board. **Wow! My first time to apply as a missionary with a mission agency when I have already been a missionary for seven years!** I know this will be a good move to give relief to the staff at Crossroads who handle my administrative needs on top of their already full plate.

I am very grateful to God who graciously gives new beginnings.

Thank you for your faithful love, prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Angie Velasco