

# Cuernavaca Newsletter

September, 2011

September 12, 2011

Dear Ministry Partner,  
Greetings from Cuernavaca! It is very beautiful right now in this City of Eternal Springs. The hills and mountains are filled with green luscious trees and almost all the flowers are blooming. It is our rainy season and with just enough rain, the city really looks like a paradise. What a blessing to be here!

August 2011 has been a very interesting month. I started in Vancouver, WA saying good-bye to many ministry partners and making sure my luggage was not overweight for the airlines. This is always a challenge since I often buy Spanish Bibles and Christian literature to give away as birthday gifts. I was back in Cuernavaca on August 4 and made it in time for our leaders' workshop for August 6.

Christa Foote, our Women's Ministry leader, gave three different messages for our workshops. I remembered being challenged to do my devotions daily. I was reminded that God blesses us because He is a good God and not because we are good or bad. Her third message was on God's grace, how much God has been very gracious to us, and how much we need to extend that grace to others, especially when we are in ministry.

I was in Chicago from June 30 – July 7 and on August 13, found myself again on a flight back to the Windy City. I got word my cousin's husband was in a coma and dying. He died on August 12 at 9:58 pm from complications of colon cancer. I often look forward to visiting Chicago as this was home to me for 19 years. But not this time – I was not sure what I would face and not really sure how to help. I remember praying for my cousin Ruth and her family for God to comfort them in this great loss. I remember deciding I would help do whatever needs to be done and had come really to serve. I took care of my



**Angie Velasco**

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cousin's grandchildren (five-months-old and two-years-old) when they were crying, I washed dishes, and I made phone calls to notify people of his death, the scheduled wake, and the funeral service. I was asked to emcee the three funeral services and coordinate them. I read the Psalms with my cousin, cried and prayed with her. I remember getting choked up and teary-eyed every time we came across the word "death" in the Psalms. Job 19:25, 26 was of great comfort to us, *"For I know that my Redeemer lives and He shall stand at last on the earth; and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God."* What a joy to know my cousin's husband, though missed very much here on earth, is with Jesus!

Amazingly, despite the very difficult and sad situation, the Lord opened my eyes to His faithfulness. He provided the funds for me to quickly fly to Chicago. God gave me opportunities to share the gospel with visitors who were extending their condolences. Somehow, death makes people more open to spiritual issues. I remember asking one Pakistani doctor who came to the wake if he was ready for death. He said, "I don't think you can really prepare for death." I said, "Oh yes, you can." I hope and pray that conversation will make him think that Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

The Lord also gave me the opportunity to re-connect with many friends and family whom I have not seen for many years. About 21 years ago, I used to lead a Bible study among Filipinos in the Chicagoland area. My cousin and her husband hosted that Bible study for many years. Over the years, I moved on and did not really know what happened to all the families who attended. Many of them came to extend their condolences to my cousin and all of them are now part of different churches in the Chicago area. Amazing how the Lord used that Saturday Bible study to spur people to study God's Word and become active in their churches. Many wanted to hear what I do in Mexico and how I ended up in Mexico.

My cousin, Ruth, was married to her husband, Armando, for 42 years. Life will be very different for her now. I cannot be in Chicago to be with my cousin because I know the Lord called me to Mexico. I have to trust God – step out in faith that what He said in Matthew 6:33 is true, *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well."* I have to believe that God is completely able

to take care of my grieving cousin and her family. They need our prayers. Would you pray and ask God to comfort her, embrace her with His loving arms, and always provide what she needs in very tangible ways?

I flew back to Mexico on August 23. I was very well received by my church family here, the ladies in the Bible study group, and my neighbors. I look forward to starting the fall ministry season knowing how precious each life is and that time is short. We don't know when God will call us home. We take every opportunity He gives us and live each day for His glory.

Thank you for your love, prayers and support.

Sincerely,

Angie Velasco

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