



MISSIONARIES TO MEXICO



CMF INTERNATIONAL PRAYER NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2010

Greetings from Furlough Ave.

A PERSONAL NOTE

In December 1989, our house was broken into and thieves took not only personal property but also a sense of security. Those who have gone through the same know how such a violation leaves one shaken. I felt guilty because I had failed to protect my family from going through this, and Pam wondered if we had moved into the wrong part of town. We did what we always do when we are troubled: We called church members and asked them to pray. I still remember Greg Ishmael, the associate pastor at the time, telling me, "Don't be surprised if this turns into a blessing." I thought "Yeah, right. Did you not hear me? We have been violated!" It turns out he was right. Our blessing came in the outpouring of love and care from so many people that we were awed by the sheer magnitude of it.

The reason I remembered that time is because history has repeated itself. Pam and I are again reminded of how many people we who bless us with their love and care. Both of us have gone through a tough time with the health of our moms, and in those moments when things seemed darkest, an email or phone call would come to remind us that folks were praying for and thinking about us. Words cannot express with precision how much that support has meant. Through your love, prayers, and support we have been reminded of how blessed we are by having you in our corner. Thank you.

FURLOUGH

Furlough has gone as most furloughs go. By that I mean, furlough can seem like little more than organized chaos due to juggling so many things. One thing I have had to stop doing is making such statements as "After such and such is over, we should be able to have some down time." However, in such a flurry of activity that, at times, seems almost frantic, the blessings continue. We have been blessed with touching base with old friends. **Some we have not seen since last furlough.**



And some we have not seen in fifteen years.



These connections occur through our travels and through our visits to a number of activities. In addition to visiting our supporting churches, we have been able to assist activities such as youth camp at Winema; speaking at the Tigard men's retreat; Norkenzie Christian Church missions week where we (actually Pam did the work) not only got to share about our work but shared some Chilean and Mexican treats. **This time also allowed us to see other missionaries we had not seen for a while.**



We also were part of Mountainview Christian Church's missions week, which allowed us to spend time with many old friends.



And visit Pasco Christian Church for their annual missions conference.



I always enjoy seeing new things. At Pasco, I got to see something I had never seen before. During my time with the children, I taught them the balloon war game that was popular with the kids at Boca Sur.



The object is to tie a balloon to your ankle and protect it while at the same time trying to pop the other kids' balloons. It always yields shouts of glee with kids. However, there was one young man who decided halfway through the game that the protection of his balloon was the number one priority and remained in the position seen in the picture until the end of the game

I could go on and on about such times. Our furlough has been filled with many such times of reconnection with friends and loved ones.

MINISTRY

In addition to our time connecting with friends and church family, we have continued to serve in what way we can. Pam was invited to accompany a short-term mission trip to Tijuana with several of our supporting churches. She was asked to go as a translator for the vision clinic. However, after they were in Tijuana on the way to examine the first clinic site, the person she was accountable too said, "Actually, I wanted you to coordinate the vision clinic." She stepped up to the task as usual, and the clinic attended to at least a thousand people during their time there. Here is a picture of one of the site's team.



Why do I mention Pam's short-term trip? She returned and informed me that she had already committed to help the team in 2010, but that she wanted to include members from the Mexican churches in Mexico City. She proposed that to a couple of leaders in Mexico City when we attended a team meeting there in September, and they responded positively. So, shortly after we arrive in Mexico City, Pam will be traveling with some folks from there to join the team from the US in a joint effort in Tijuana. This requires a lot of prayer coverage, so we ask that you start on that right now.

During our visit to Mexico City for the team meeting, I was able to spend time with some local pastors brainstorming how the training institute would be organized and who would participate. I met with pastors in Mexico City and in Pachuca (a city about two hours away). The goal of the meetings was to understand what courses the Mexican pastors saw as needed and how they saw the institute working. We were able to know how many hours a month the groups would meet and locations for the classes. The meeting with the pastors was very fruitful. Rather than include all the info on how the initial organization of the course work will look like, if you wish more details, email us and we would be more than happy to send you a copy of the plan.

We continue the last months of our furlough seeking new partners to meet the financial aspect of our work in Mexico. Please pray that God open doors with churches and individuals to finish meeting that need. I spoke to a pastor who encouraged me with the words "with God there is no recession" when we spoke of the challenges of raising support in a time when the economy has so many cautious of making new financial commitments.

PRAYER NEEDS

- Our funding for Mexico.
- Our moms' health.
- Peace of mind for us as we return to the field with moms in failing health.
- That God begins to prepare the right place for us to live in Mexico.
- Pam's trip to Mexico for CHE training in February.
- Our funding for Mexico (I mention it again because we need to secure it before going to the field).

Over the years I have often cited Ecclesiastes 4:9-12. It continues to be a scripture that explains how we feel about our relationship. We know we can't do it without you. We rely on the fact that when we fall, we can count on you to help lift us up. Your support through prayers, financial giving, phone calls, and visits are what keeps us warm at night. We love you guys and are grateful that you allow us the privilege of representing you on the field. We will continue to work to be good stewards of your trust.

Chau,

Vic & Pam

Vic and Pam deLeón

PS: Oh, I guess since we are moving to Mexico I should no longer close with "Chau" but rather with "hasta luego."

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