



CHANGING LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

Winter 2010

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Life On His Terms

Life seldom turns out the way we expect it to be. Many times we encounter great difficulty. On the flip side we often receive blessings we did not expect. We are often perplexed by the situations we encounter in life. We are able to receive the blessings without difficulty even if we are hard pressed to understand why we have been blessed. We are much more perplexed by the difficulties we encounter in life. We often ask why? How could this happen to me?

Let us examine how David dealt with this issue in 1st Samuel Chapter 30. David and his men returned to Ziklag to find that the Amalekites had raided the place. Their families and been taken along with all of their possessions. David and his men wept. The scripture states that they wept until they were exhausted from weeping. David's men wanted to stone him. Talk about troubles that he did not expect.

How did David deal with this crisis? Perhaps we should first look at what he did not do? He did not try to paint a "pretty picture" and say everything was fine. Nor does it say that he questioned God as to why this happened. And he did not reason that this was a good thing. He did not try to blame someone. He simply wept!

Then in the darkest of hours he relied on the one thing that no one could take away from him. He rallied himself with his faith and

turned to God for answers. He
(see *His Terms* on page 2)

2010 Medical Trips

Spring

March 17th thru 21st ----Boquillas

April 6th thru 11th ----San Vicente

April 21st thru 25th ----Santa Elena

Fall

September 22nd thru 26th -Boquillas

October 12th thru 17th --San Vicente

October 27th thru 31st ---Santa Elena

Fees on all trips are \$350. We do not want this to be a stumbling block. Partial scholarships and/or payment plans are usually available.

If you desire to serve on one of these teams please contact us at 830-997-6542 or 830-992-9453. You may also email us at callerkamp@beecreek.net or sallerkamp@beecreek.net.



A few years ago these tools were purchased for us (By the Rotary District 5840 Hunger-committee) to use along with other dental equipment that was purchased for us by Fredericksburg Morning Rotary. We are very grateful for these gifts. We have made good use of these gifts but we would like to make greater use of them. Do you know a dentist who might go with us?

Joe's Dream

A few years ago a friend of the mission, Joe Desloge, had a dream of establishing internet connection in the villages we serve. His hope was that the people could use this both for communication and education. Joe went on to

be with the Lord last March but his dream continued. With the assistance from the Hunger-plus committee and Mision De (see *The Dream* continued on page two)

2009 Revisited

Last year was difficult in many ways but looking back on it we can see the Lord's hand at work throughout the year.

Early in the year we were very concerned about the finances of the mission. While we never had a lot of money in the bank God saw us through and all financial obligations were met in a timely fashion throughout the year.

Another concern we had was an ability to staff all of our medical teams. In addition most of our service projects had to be put on hold. Financial circumstances here in the U.S., fear of violence and the swine flu lowered participation on the medical teams and nearly shut down all of our service project activity.

In spite of all of these setbacks we had a very successful year. In fact we could say that in many aspects we had one of our better years. We continue to believe that He will overcome all the hurdles on our horizon. In our weakness He has shown Himself strong.

This year is beginning with a bang. We returned from Mexico with a group from Holy Ghost Lutheran Church on January 1st. We are planning 3 to 4 service projects this summer along with the scheduled medical trips. So there will be plenty of opportunity for service.

The following is a list of last year's activities. All of these activities were completed with a total budget of less than **\$130,000**
Nine medical teams traveled to Mexico in 2009.

Thirty medical clinics were held in 2009.

Two service project teams traveled to Mexico in 2009.

One service project team traveled to West Texas.

One Well-Child clinic was held in Piedras Negras.

37 worship services were held in 10 different villages.

7 days of vacation bible school were facilitated in 2009.

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The value of medical services and medications provided in 2009 exceeds \$500,000.

The value of construction projects completed last year was approximately \$20,000 in 2009.

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asked God what he should do next. After hearing God, He rallied the men who desired to stone him to his side as they went after the men who had done this terrible deed. They were not only successful in retrieving everything they had lost but much more.

It is essential for all of us to remember that God is the only certain thing in life and that because He is our creator He will see us through this life and lead us to the next. Many Christians believe that if they live a good Christian life nothing bad will happen. Or that material blessings in my life are evidence that I am living as a Christian should.

“Come to Jesus and everything will be wonderful.” This is true but not in the way most people expect. I have been walking in faith with the Lord for almost 36 years.

Admittedly, sometimes my walk was quite weak. I have had a few successes and many failures. I have known both joy and sorrow. There have been many difficult days where like Job I questioned God. I know what it feels like to think that all is lost and that I am a total failure. In final analysis He is always there for me to show me the way. The way is seldom easy but it is always wonderful. Looking back I can see that all the days (good and bad) add up to “today”. They were necessary to get to where I am to today and to reach my tomorrows. Today is not perfect nor is it great but it is where I need to be to get to tomorrow. I have been and I am being shaped by Him. All I really have is Him. He is the Kingdom and the rest has been and is being added to me. I have not yet arrived (figured it all out) but I do get glimpses of understanding.

As the years go by one basic truth stands out above all else. This truth is the basis of all genuine faith. This truth states this “God is the only certain thing in this life”. Through the years I have seen many people try to build their foundation on various things. These “things” range from tangible things (material things) to various religious concepts. All of these foundations will fail us. He is God and He is the reality that sustains me. In our joys and sorrows let us look to Him!

En Cristo Curtis



Your skill and talent is less significant than the compassion that God has put in your heart. Come with us and see the precious smiles along with the marvelous scenery. You will never be the same.

The Dream from page one

Candelilla a group from *Engineers Without Borders* (University of Texas Chapter) left for San Miguel on January 3rd to install internet connection. To our delight they were successful. Below is the first email we received from this region.

From: Rahul Mitra [mailto:rahulpm@gmail.com]
 Sent: Thursday, January 14, 2010 12:47 PM
 To: Mexico Computer; EWB Mexico Computer Project
 Cc: Kenneth Donoughue; Kurtis Allercamp; Maverick Solar; Mack Grady; Monica Dyer; Natalie Craik; Corrie Thompson; Hannah Romaine; Baba; Alysha Girard; Jeffrey Kuhn; Katie Zimmerman; Kathy Harrell-C; Arvind Sujeeth; Emily Underriner; Kevin Olsen; Adrienne O'Neill; Kathryn Alexander; Didi; Annie Jiaojun Lin
 Subject: Re: Off to Mexico!

Hello from San Miguel!

This is the first email being sent from this part of the world! The trip is going great! We had a couple of issues with the inverter and the satellite antenna, but its all working now! A group of us is going to Jaboncilos Chicos tomorrow to replace the broken pressure switch. The rest of the the team will be here in San Miguel for the Open house we are holding for the Internet center. If all goes according to plan, we should be back in Austin Saturday night.

Wish us luck!

Rahul

