

Subject: Prayer Update--August 2, 2008

Weathering the Storm

Several of you have emailed or called to ask if we sustained any damage from Hurricane Dolly. We thought it was past time to send an update. First we want to thank you for your prayers and concern for us during the recent storm. Predictions said that the hurricane would hit either northeastern Mexico or Deep South Texas so we felt it was necessary to prepare our house in Mexico as well as the house in Texas. The day before the storm was scheduled to hit we boarded up the windows on the house in La Poza and secured the roof as best we could in case high winds hit La Poza. Since it had just been 3 years since Hurricane Emily destroyed most of Media Luna and did extensive damage in La Poza, the people there took no chances with the possibility of a repeat performance. All of the residents of Media Luna evacuated and a majority of La Poza went further inland as well.

After finishing preparations for the storm in Mexico we headed north to prepare our house in Brownsville. We finished that on Tuesday afternoon and the storm hit on Wednesday afternoon. Hurricane Dolly made landfall at South Padre Island and then took a bit more of a northerly track with the eye of the storm heading just a bit north of Harlingen, TX. We are thankful to report that because the eye of the storm was nearly 100 miles north of La Poza the only thing it received was about an inch of rain. There was no significant wind and absolutely no damage. While we had some significant wind at our house in Brownsville and a lot of rain, we had no damage for which we are very thankful. Our biggest inconvenience was the loss of power for about 36 hours. There was much flooding in South Texas and many people have been forced to evacuate their homes so we're thankful to God for sparing us any problems in either Mexico or Texas. Thank you all for your prayers and concern.

On the Road for 2 Months

It has been over 4 years since the Lord redirected us from pastoral ministry into missionary service. During those 4 years we have had the opportunity to visit a few of our supporting churches but we have decided to take the months of August and September to visit some of those churches in the Midwest that we have not seen in quite some time. While it was difficult to say goodbye to friends in Mexico for 2 months, we also feel it is important to periodically report firsthand to those who participate with us in this ministry. Our hope is to take another month or so in 2009 to report personally to our remaining churches. So if we don't see some of you on this trip, please be patient with us. We value your friendship and support.

Part of our reluctance to leave at this time was as we reported in our last Update, it seems that in God's sovereignty, we are having unusual opportunities to share the Gospel with folks in La Poza like we have not had in the past. From the human perspective we believe this is happening now for a couple of reasons. Many of our expanded opportunities for ministry are simply because we continue to grow in our ability to communicate and understand Spanish. While God is certainly not limited to work in the hearts of people in La Poza by our ability or inability to communicate in Spanish, in His normal providence He uses people to communicate the Gospel personally to those who don't know Him. We continue to learn and grow in the language but we give thanks for the progress that we've seen in the last 2 years.

We also believe we're having more opportunities for ministry because of the relationships and friendships that we have been able to build over the last 2 years. Recently while talking with a couple whom we're having weekly Bible studies, they told us, "you know, it seems that people in La Poza really do think that you all are going to stay here now. You've been here long enough that people are beginning to really think that you like it here and you *want* to be here." Mexicans often seem amazed that we *choose* to live in Mexico and actually *enjoy* living in Mexico. Now that they have come to accept us as a part of the community they have shown much more of a willingness to listen when we share the message of the cross with them.

Keep Praying

Before we left for the United States we left 'homework' with those whom we have been regularly studying the Scripture. We would ask you to pray that the Spirit of God continue to work in the lives of these people in our absence. Pray that God would draw **Miguel & Juani, Nacho & Martina, Mariachi,** and **Carlos** to Himself. They are not believers but have expressed some level of interest in spiritual things and the truths of Scripture. Pray also for the professing believers that they will continue to grow in grace. In particular pray for **Victor & Andrea, Sandra, Lilia** and her teenage daughter **Karin,** and **Mari.** There are a number of other folks that we've shared with in recent days but we would ask you to pray specifically for these we've mentioned.

We'd also appreciate your prayers for us as we travel many miles in the next 8 weeks and have the opportunity to minister in a number of different churches throughout the Midwest . Thank you again for your faithfulness to the Lord and your ministry together with us in the Gospel

Resting in the Shadow of the Almighty,

Steve & Robin
Psalm 91:1