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From: Steve Henry <steve@toeverytribe.com>
 To: Steve Henry <steve@toeverytribe.com>
 Sent: Tuesday, November 4, 2008 10:02:20 PM
 Subject: Prayer Update--November 4, 2008

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The last time we wrote you we were preparing for our return to La Poza after being gone for a little over 2 months. In some ways it seemed like 2 years. We were anxious to return and reconnect. There's an old Country & Western tune that has the line in it "I'm back in the saddle again. . ." Don't ask us who sang it or any of the other lyrics because we don't know them but there's a very real sense in which we feel like we too are "back in the saddle again." So, what's it like to be back in the saddle again in La Poza?

Picking Up Where We Left Off

- Our first Sunday back we jumped right into our weekly chronological Bible study that we'd left when we headed north in August. Attendance has been better than before we left and the folks who come seem to have a genuine interest in knowing what the Bible teaches. Because they haven't had a lot of solid background in Bible study, we try to keep the lessons simple with one or two significant principles that we hope they will take home with them. In addition to this weekly Bible study in our home, we have also resumed individual Bible studies with various individuals and couples in their homes throughout the week. We would ask you to continue praying for Miguel & Juani. We are meeting with them at least twice a week to talk with them of the Scripture. We continue to lay out the claims of the Gospel in the most basic ways we can explain them. Pray that God would open their eyes to the glorious truths of Scripture. Pray also that God would open the eyes of Martina & her husband Nacho. Both of these couples are Roman Catholic in their background but really have no understanding of what their church believes. Our approach is to simply present to them the truths of the Gospel with a strong emphasis on salvation by grace alone through faith alone. They've heard some of these terms in the Roman Catholic Church and they wrongly conclude that they must already believe what we're trying to show them from the Scripture. There are times we feel that we must tell them what Romanism truly teaches so they can then begin to discern the truth of Scripture. We walk a fine line at times because if they sense we're simply attacking Catholicism they see it as an attack on their culture and upbringing. If we don't point out the differences they wrongly assume that we're all on the same team. Pray that we'll have wisdom.
- Robin has quickly gotten back into her ministry through the medical clinic as well. In fact, her number of consultations has probably increased. In the past the government has sent a medical student (as part of their training) to La Poza to serve in the government run medical clinic. Each year a new student takes up residence and Robin has had a good working relationship with each of the med students who have worked the clinic in the last few years. A new resident is typically sent in August and Robin always visits the new resident to introduce herself and tell him or her that she is not in La Poza to compete with their clinic but rather as a support to the government run clinic. While we were gone, the government sent a new medical student to the clinic in August. She lasted one week. She returned to Matamoros saying that she didn't like living in La Poza. The government still has not placed another resident in the clinic and we've been told that they probably will not have anyone here this year. Consequently, Robin is the only health care provider in La Poza for the time being. That probably means we'll need more meds in the clinic and more work for Robin this year but it also provides more opportunities for ministry and relationship building. Pray that God will use this ministry in the coming year to honor His name and reach people with the Gospel.

Making Friends, Reaching Out, Becoming Part of the Community

- Several events recently have given us the sense that we are more and more becoming a 'part' of the community. Several weeks ago we were invited to a quinceañera for a teenage girl here in La Poza. The quinceañera is a celebration that the family has when their teenage daughter turns 15. In a way it marks her right of passage into adulthood. It's celebrated in a variety of ways—sometimes with a mass but always with a large meal, dance, and a big fiesta. Just a few days ago we were invited to another one later this month. These kinds of activities give us the opportunity to talk and associate not only with the family but many friends and folks in the community. At the meal we even had the opportunity to talk some with the priest who comes to the Roman Catholic Church here in La Poza. This is the second opportunity we've had to meet and talk some with him. He knows that we're missionaries living here in La Poza and we're looking for opportunities to engage him more directly in the truths of the Gospel.
- Another occasion that made us realize we're becoming more a part of the community was a recent celebration we had at our house. Robin and several friends here in La Poza celebrated birthdays late in October and we had over 20 folks from the community over for a cookout and party one Saturday night. We love having folks here at the house and these relaxed times are great ways of building relationships that God often allows us to develop into opportunities for ministry.

Being gone for a couple of months simply reenergized us and caused us to refocus on the task at hand. La Poza is home to us and we love living here. God has given us a heart for this ministry and our desire remains to see a fully functioning grace preaching church established here in the future. Thanks for your part in pursuing this desire with us.

Saddled Up and Ready to Ride,

Steve & Robin

P.S. If you'd like to see some pictures of the activities mentioned above, check out our blog at <http://www.mexicohenrys.blogspot.com/>.