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Sent: Thu, December 10, 2009 1:22:50 PM
Subject: Prayer Update--December 11, 2009
Special Prayer for Christmas Activities

This time of the year always gives us opportunities to proclaim the Gospel as people's thoughts turn toward Christmas. Here are 2 activities that we would ask you to pray that God would use for His glory:

December 16, 17, and 18 we will be attending Christmas parties at the kindergarten, primary, and secondary schools here in La Poza. One of our supporting churches in Houston is donating over 100 gift bags for the kids for these parties. Nine members of their church will be bringing them down and we look forward to seeing them and they'll be helping in the distribution. Pray that these acts of Christian love would show forth the Gospel and for opportunities to speak the Gospel during these times.

We have plans to show the film, *The Nativity Story*, here in La Poza. This will be an event where we'll invite the entire community. While we have not set the date, (we show it outside and we'll wait for a good night) we will probably show it during the week of Christmas. Pray that we will have a good turnout for the film and that the message of the film and the brief explanation of the Gospel following will be used to save some.

The Reason for Our Being

Around this time of the year you will all probably hear or read this little statement: "Jesus is the reason for the season." Maybe you will see it on a church sign. Maybe it will be written on your Christmas cards. Maybe it will be the theme of your pastor's annual Christmas message. There is certainly nothing wrong or incorrect in the statement and it does help us focus on the meaning of Christmas in a culture gone mad with materialism, Christmas sales, and all manner of activities that do little to focus our attention on the incarnation of God come in the flesh.

But as true as that little statement is, it is extremely limited. Jesus is certainly the reason for the season but He is so much more than that, isn't He? In reality Jesus is the reason for our *being*! The words that the angel of the Lord spoke to those shepherds echoes through the ages: "behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11) That statement is the centerpiece of the nativity story and the Gospel. The Savior came not just for the Jews. But rather this is good news of great joy for *all people*. Did you ever consider that tucked into the nativity story is a mandate for world missions? We are commanded to be his witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth *because* just as the angel announced, this good news of great joy is for *all people*—your American neighbors, our Mexican friends and neighbors, the Muslim living under Islamic rule, or the animist worshipping the spirits in Africa. Jesus really is the reason for our being!

Many Thanks

This will be our last Prayer Update for 2009. Once again we give thanks to God for your faithful prayer support. We want to wish each of you a blessed Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Feliz Navidad!

Steve & Robin

Blog: <http://www.mexicohenrys.blogspot.com/> (We will post pictures later this month of the activities mentioned above for special prayer; past Prayer Updates are also archived here)

Financial support: Central Missionary Clearinghouse/P.O. Box 219228/ Houston, TX 77218-9228
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