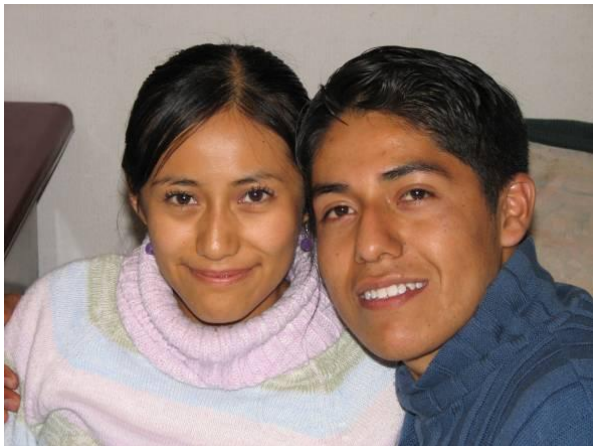


ABCD MCMANUS MINISTRY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2007

A MEXICAN WEDDING

Mexican weddings look a bit different from our customs in the U.S., and behind the scenes, they are a LOT different! Zaira (pronounced “Sigh-Duh”) and Chucho (pronounced “Chew-Choh”...nickname for his real name, José de Jesus) are a godly young couple who are going to marry on November 11th. Zaira comes from a family of long-time believers and are quite active in the church. Her father is in leadership training and will likely be the administrator of the expected community center project. Chucho is the only believer in his family. We’re impressed with their godly and pure example to the other youth. The wedding will be held in Chucho’s hometown about an hour from San Juan because he wants the entire church to come to the wedding and be a witness to his entire family all at once!



One of the Mexican customs has to do with the fact (part of the tradition now) that many Mexicans can’t afford the expenses of a wedding and so they ask special others in their lives to help with the elements of the wedding. Beth and I have been surprised and blessed by their request that we have an important role in their wedding. We will be “los padrinos de los anillos.” If you’re wondering what that means, you might want to sit down! It means that we have been asked (and we joyfully accepted) to purchase their wedding bands and present them during the wedding! Can you imagine not picking your own rings but trusting someone else to do so and to purchase them?! You must know that I asked them if they had any preferences in the rings and they said “No, whatever you want is fine.” So, of course being the naughty person I replied, “So, plastic is OK?” I got a great reaction out of that one! Hee-hee!

Last Saturday night several leading families in the church hosted a little dinner and time to be with Zaira and Chucho as a couple and to encourage them before the big day. We played a newlywed game and went around the room giving little pieces of advice about married life. They even took notes and served all of us the meal! I told them that Beth and I decided before we were married that the word “divorce” would never exist in our vocabulary, and that when we said, “till death do us part” during the vows, we really meant that. (I quickly added that ever since then, Beth’s been trying to kill me...which after a moment of tremendous silence caused a great eruption of laughter and even a few tears in the room!)



Pray for Chucho and Zaira to have a beautiful wedding, a growing relationship in Christ together and for the salvation of Chucho’s family who have rejected the Gospel thus far.

WOMEN’S MINISTRY



Without a doubt, women’s ministry is a vital part of assisting the national church in Mexico. Women in Mexico, and even in the church, are often abused, battered, neglected and hurting deeply. It was a special treat for Beth and her mother to share on some important topics to two groups of women this month. One retreat was in the state of Michoacan (5 hours drive from here) for the ladies from several churches. The other was for the ladies of our church. Aside from teaching and sharing, the two Beths read a script about the life of Susannah Wesley, complete with period-style dresses (thanks to Marita Mikesell, the hostess for the retreat, for creating them). The reports were overwhelmingly positive and many ladies expressed their genuine appreciation for the hard work put into retreats as well as for the encouragement they received.

Great job Beth and Beth (Hanna), and praise God that He was glorified in these retreats!



Pray for the many women in the churches in Mexico, especially those who attended the retreats.



AND PRAY FOR THESE TOO...

- October 27 – hosting a fall youth party in our home as well as an overnight group of about 20 youth from a sister church located about 2 hours from here (we'll house about half of them...all the guys).
- November 11 – Chucho and Zaira's wedding...and the evangelistic impact of the church body.
- November 12-13 – providing child care and homeschool help during a conference for missionaries. We'll be in charge of about a dozen MKs.
- November 18-24 – ministry trip to the state of Oaxaca to help about 15 MK homeschoolers, followed by our annual field conference being held in the warm state of Veracruz (last year the water fountain in the hotel near here was frozen every morning!).
- Our health has been drained by a lengthy cough and cold virus. It is quite strong and has lasted for weeks.

Touching the World One Life at a Time,

Alan for Beth, Cameron and Dayton McManus

Email: amcmanus@caminternational.org

IP Phone (Vonage): 440.551.0145

Website: www.abcdmcmmanus.com

Skype: alanbethcam

Mailing Address: c/o CAM International,
8625 La Prada Dr., Dallas, TX 75228