

**ABCD MCMANUS MINISTRY UPDATE**  
*SEPTEMBER 2007*

**ROUTINE BUT NOT A RUT**

Sometimes routine can feel like a rut, but we're very happy to be back to a routine after four months of anything but routine. We're enjoying our weekly trips to Querétaro to work with the Lambert, Buhler and Smith families. In coming weeks and months we'll likely be adding more families to the routine. Here in San Juan the library continues to need attention as there are a couple hundred books ready to be input in the catalog and many books are being checked out and returned routinely.

- **Pray that our ministry to homeschooling missionary families will meet many needs and provide a valued resource to these families. Praise God that the routine is coming together quickly and that we're seeing many more opportunities to enhance our efforts!**

Ministry within the church is picking up as well with Beth primarily involved in the youth SS. A recent leadership meeting appeared to address many festering attitudes and has brought about a positive change and plan. I think that for me it is more important to interact with the adults as it seems more beneficial in developing my Spanish skills. Let's face it...do you understand the teenagers in your church when they speak?!? The slang seems worse in Spanish! The four months in the States surprisingly seemed to help in the language acquisition process and simple conversations are generally easy to traverse.

- **Pray for our youth leadership and the youth that there will be Christ-like attitudes and actions that glorify God and encourage spiritual growth. Pray for my Spanish skills to continue to improve and my vocabulary to increase.**

Beth is preparing for two upcoming ladies' retreats. The first is in Michoacan (4+ hours drive away) where she and her mother will team-teach the long weekend with several in-depth sessions. The second will be here at Camp Koinonia (45 minutes up into the mountains) where Beth is primarily in charge of feeding all the ladies attending (20 to 50).

- **Pray that these ladies' retreats will edify, encourage and challenge the many believers who will attend and that Beth and her mother will wisely and effectively share from God's Word.**

Homeschooling is off and running and we are working much harder this year with Cameron in 4<sup>th</sup> and Dayton in 1<sup>st</sup> grade. The Stanford Achievement Test for Cameron last year showed us some areas that we need to hit doubly hard as he is way behind in spelling and other parts of language arts. We can see that while we're helping other families, we have to be sure not to let our own homeschooling fall behind. We're working through Young Peacemakers for part of our Bible curriculum and it's exciting to see the potential for growth in our children and in our family for dealing positively with conflict.

- **Pray that our homeschooling will result in spiritual and academic growth, and that we'll all enjoy the learning experience.**

Friday mornings are a blessing as we host a family in our church that is now homeschooling their children for the first time. The public schools here are just horrible and their son was beaten at school this past spring for sharing the Gospel with his classmates. It appears they are adjusting well to this challenging task of educating their children at home and we're enjoying our weekly time of helping their two children learn English while the mother helps our two boys in Spanish. We're mutually encouraged by this and are very pleased to see this working out well.

- **Pray for the parents, Lalo ("La-low") and Leti (Let-ee) and the children, Gameliel and Priscila, that their homeschooling experience will help their family grow in the Lord and prepare the children for serving the Lord throughout their lives.**

Finally, the vision for a community center that will serve as a hub for evangelism outreach, a platform for church planting in this area and also as a location where the local church can meet has reached a possible milestone. After several other affordable and verbally-promised parcels were sold to other buyers, there is a property that meets the minimal requirements, is in an excellent location and appears to be the best candidate for purchasing yet. It is a partially developed

lot that is already walled and is owned by a believer in Mexico City who is interested in selling at a price that basically represents his investment (and thus below market value) as long as it's going to be used to promote the Gospel. The property is probably worth a couple of times more than this selling price. We've been disappointed in the past with potential deals, so our hopes are tempered until we see this purchase finalized. There's a whole list of positives as to why this property would be ideal for this project so it's hard not to be excited about this new development. We'll keep you posted.

- **Pray that this property acquisition would proceed according to God's will.**

Jason and Kristin and toddler Justin are coming over this evening for a game night. It's great to see our relationship develop and we're seeing many positive signs in their spiritual journey. We're not sure yet, but it could very well be that Kristin's earlier recollection of making a profession of faith in Christ as a child may have been a genuine step of faith. She is expressing a real hunger for God's Word and she is consuming every audio sermon we can provide for her. She enjoys listening to the Bible in audio format as well. Above all that, her life is really changing! Her attitudes and actions are reflecting the work of the Holy Spirit in her life! We can't explain it any other way. Thanks for praying for them!

- **Please continue to pray for salvation and growth for Jason and Kristin.**

In the realm of physical needs, you might find it interesting to know that Jason works 40+ hours a week for about \$80 at a large American-owned textile factory. A recent domestic terrorist attack on several large LP gas pipelines left most factories on this side of the country without fuel for running their operations. Jason's factory shut down for several days and they were left to scrape by on very little income last week. They had to borrow money from a relative to pay their rent. He only made \$50 that week and they had \$3 left for groceries. Pray that we'll be wise and creative in helping them as needed so that we don't create an awkward and unhealthy dependency through any assistance we might give them. We would not give them money directly but would buy food or medicine as warranted. At this point, gas service has been restored and it appears the worst for them is over for now. He's working overtime as the factory is seeking to make up for the lost time. Apparently, it's not required by law and so his employer doesn't pay any extra for overtime.

**Touching the World One Life at a Time,**

*Alan for Beth, Cameron and Dayton McManus*

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