

**IN March we tried something new...we emailed a recap while we were in Mexico to our entire email list. We had very good response to these updates. Here are the three emails...**

Hi family, friends and supporters!

We are in Puerto Peñasco for our March trip. So much happened on our first day here, that we are led to share some praises and specific prayer requests.

**Prison ministry.** Pastora Rafa shared a message about 'offenses'. (We are teaching from a series from Victorious Christian Living International named "Salt: Seven Areas of Life Training". ) The Bible teaches us not to 'pick up' offenses when others do things that hurt us. This is difficult, but God will help us. Lourdes (fellow ministry leader) shared a powerful testimony about how she had let an offense from her ex-husband ruin her life for years! Then, she invited Christ to heal her heart and gave the offense and offended feelings to Him. He came in and changed her life, bringing joy and a renewed peace! We asked the women to share an offense they have suffered. One of the prisoners, Queta, who normally does not attend the Bible Study shared about the offense that has caused her to be in prison serving a 44 year sentence! (She has served 5 years so far.) Lourdes and Rafa shared how Jesus wants to take that offense as He took all offenses on the cross. We prayed over her and then Rafa asked if she would like to accept what Jesus did for her on the cross. She said she would, but didn't know how. Rafa offered to lead her in a prayer and Queta repeated it after her. I was on my knees praying and weeping quietly as this woman, who we have been praying for three years, made her confession of faith. Thank you, Lord! Your faithful love endures forever! (Psalms 135:1b <NLT>)

Please join us in praying that Queta will KNOW that God now lives within her and that she will begin to experience the FREEDOM that believing in Jesus brings. Also, pray that she will give up the past alliances she has had with idol worship.

**Margarita and Alejandra:** A recent x-ray shows that Alejandra has 3 stones in her urethra. If left alone they could block her urinary track. Surgery is being recommended. We are being led to pray that those stones would be broken up and washed out by the miraculous power of Jesus' touch on her body. Dennis, Margarita and I laid hands on Alejandra's abdominal area yesterday and prayed for the healing of her body and the dispelling of these stones. We anointed her with oil and claimed God's healing touch. I am being led to fast today (at least) to continue to pray in faith for healing of Alejandra. Would you please join us in this prayer?

**Pastors Lupe and Rafa:** Their church, El Sembrador, now has more attendees from the 'invasion' area of Peñasco than from their church's neighborhood! It takes 2 hours and \$25 worth of gas for the bus to pick up everyone for services twice a week! Miguel and Leo (remember the story about them receiving the gift of the motor home to live in last March?) have been growing spiritually and live in the invasion area. Pastors Lupe and Rafa are feeling led to start a mission church under the leadership of Miguel and Leo in the invasion area. They will begin by meeting at the motor home. They are all praying for a piece of property to build a church building someday. Wow! What a vision! Dennis and I are excited to see such growth in Miguel and Leo and for a new church in this area with so much need. Please pray that God's plan and purpose would be carried out and that He would provide exactly what is needed. Lord, please direct us as to any way you would have Manos de Dios come along side this growing church to assist them. (Work team to build a ramada-type structure when they have a lot for the church?)

Thank you for joining with us in prayer. We believe in the power of united prayer!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.

We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, He endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now He is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility He endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up. After all, you have not yet given your lives in your struggle against sin." Hebrews 12:1-4

For the King and His Kingdom,  
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A DAY OF THANKSGIVING!

***Unselfish servants:*** As we were returning from the barrio we saw a friend standing on the road frantically waving his arms trying to get us to stop. As we did, we saw it was our friend Renaldo and his family.

As usual, he was eager to tell us how great the Lord is and how blessed they are to be a believer in Jesus. We have mentioned this family before. They are a family of seven children and mom and dad who are totally involved in serving the Lord. Neither Renaldo nor his wife, Cecilia, have a 'job' and they live off the blessings received from donations from the churches in which they provide praise and worship music. The rest of the time they drive their mini pickup truck (and sometimes walk) up and down the streets of Peñasco telling people about Jesus' love for them. He commented that the Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons are on the streets telling people about their religion, so we should certainly be out there telling people about the real and true Lord and Savior. Then, they told us of God's calling for them to assist a small church in the barrio and invited us to services that night.

As we talked, we asked them how we could pray for their family. Renaldo expressed a need was for a utility trailer to carry around his sound equipment (see photo). Sometimes they have all their equipment and 4 or 5 of their kids in the back of the truck and it is very dangerous. At the end of our visit we all got in a circle and prayed for one another and thanked the Lord for loving us so unconditionally. .

This family totally loves and trusts in the Lord. They have very little in possessions but they are rich in the love of the Lord and serving Him in any way they can. They smile and ignore the face of adversity in their lives and pass on the love of God to all they meet. This family can testify to more people in a week than most of us can in a year and Lucy and I want to assist them and encourage them in any way we can. They are a wonderful example of totally trusting in our Savior. As we drove away, my mind was already praying for someone to provide the blessing of a utility trailer for Renaldo or...how I could find a way to get one (with God's assistance)! We also decided to contribute part of our personal monthly tithe to this family's mission.

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**Let there be light:** Next it was off to another family's house to drop off a generator that had been donated to Manos de Dios. A mom and dad, their daughter (a single mom) and her three daughters live in a house far from water and electricity. They asked us, the last time we were in Peñasco, how much a small, used generator might cost in the states. They were using oil lamps at night and the diesel fuel (they had been burning in lamps) were burning their eyes and starting to make them sick.



I recalled the offer of a generator from our friends, Dan and Bob from Pantano Christian Church, and we felt led to give it to this family who is very active in the leadership of their church. I picked up the small generator so we could bring it on this trip. When we delivered the generator the family was so happy that the tears came easily. We started it up and plugged in the extension cord and went in to see the new lighting (they installed the wiring and fixtures when they built the house). We all gave thanks to God for blessing us in so many ways and for the generosity of others to help those in need. We are blessed to be blessing!



**Church service in the evening:** As we were pulling up to church we saw Renaldo and his pickup truck full of sound equipment in front of us. Lucy commented that this would make a great picture to show others this family's need for a utility trailer. Then she got out her camera and took the photos that are here.

The church service started off with the hum of a borrowed generator (this area does not have electricity yet) and little ceiling lights that brightened and dimmed at the will of the generator. That noise was quickly drowned out by the joyful noise from Renaldo's electric keyboard and wife, Cecilia's voice as they led us in beautiful praise and worship music.



The message was inspiring and touched on the fact that our salvation is free, however after that there is a price to pay. We must be willing to change our lives to follow Christ's example. Right on! Then, there was a time for offering and a short message concerning our blessings. Like many others in Peñasco, it is a very poor church (financially), but rich in the love of the Lord. As we made our offering we noticed that all the donations were coins except our offering of paper money. It reminded me of the story of the old woman and the one coin she offered. We pray that our paper money offering was as valuable as the coins that were offered up.

After the service was over Lucy and I took Renaldo and Cecilia off to the side and quietly gave them our personal offering to their mission. Again, eyes were watering and many thanks were given to God for the blessings we all receive and pass on.

At the end of the service we noticed a few things: that both the message and the call to offerings were made by lay people from the church; they all made do with the facilities

they had: they were filled with the joy of the Lord (i.e. they did not let financial and physical poverty get them down); they gave God the glory He is due; and thanked Him for the blessings they had (few as they were if compared to many of us). What a lesson we can learn from this!

Lord, we thank you for this day,  
Dennis (for Lucy, too!)  
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Hi friends, family and supporters.

We have such good response from our daily trip reports that we are sending another one while we are still here in Mexico. Thank you for your words of encouragement, prayers and interest!

**Pastor Prayers:** We attended the weekly Saturday prayer time that meets at various churches at 6am. The time stated out with Gaby leading us in simple praise songs. He encouraged all to sing individually to the Lord as he continued to quietly play his guitar. What a precious, beautiful time of worship! Then, each pastor or church leader came to the front to lead prayer for a topic of importance. The first pastor was to pray for the pastors in this community. He spent most of his prayer time repenting for the sins he and the other pastors have committed. He was very humble and it was a moving prayer! The last prayer was for missionaries. A pastor laid his hands on Dennis and my shoulders and prayed over us. He included a prayer for the missionaries (Dave and Jeanay Stiles) I will be visiting in April in Taiwan. After the meeting we committed to pray for Pastors Manuel and Olga and Pastors Jose and Ana. They will DRIVING to Cancun, Mexico!! (They estimate it will take 5 days AND 5 nights of driving to get there! Some 4000 miles!) Manuel is going to help start a church. Jose and Ana (also going are 4 rehab center residents) to help start a men's rehab center there. Please keep them in your prayers...safe travel and a successful work time there. The dates of their trip are March 31- April 12.

**Prayer requests for women:** I visited with three special women. As each one talked, I became more and more aware that we ALL share similar concerns (no matter what culture we live in).

- Olga asked for prayer for her daughter, Betsy, that is having a difficult pregnancy. She is on bed rest and this, her third granddaughter is due in August!
- Mercedes told me about her feelings of loneliness as she cares for her three young daughters while her husband is at work. She longs for a girlfriend to share things of her heart and a mentor to disciple her in the things of the Lord. She would also love to have a solar panel so they can use a single light bulb at night and listen to the local Christian radio station.
- Karina was painting their Amor home that was built in February. She was so grateful to have this home and delighted in the progress her husband was making as he buys and installs one dry wall panel at a time (as they can afford them). She held her 7 year old son (who has cerebral palsy) and told me about her dream to get an appointment for her son at the Teleton therapy hospital that is to be completed by November in Hermosio. (see photo #1) She gave me a box of fresh asparagus!

What a privilege it was to 'stand in the gap' for each of these women, lifting up their needs to our loving Lord. We prayed in faith that the Lord's power would be ignited in their lives! I reached toward heaven

as I laid a hand on their shoulder and humbly asked the Lord to use me as a conduit for His intervention in their lives. We prayed for physical and spiritual healing and for the desires of their hearts.

“By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through Him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.” Acts 3:16

**Fun at the beach:** We spent a wonderful afternoon at the beach with our friends Carlos, Nati, Mayerli and Damian. (You may recall the story about giving them a van...not knowing they didn't know how to drive!) The kids loved playing in the ocean (fully clothed) with our 4 month old Golden Retriever puppy, Chaco. (see photos) We had a English lesson on the beach as they asked for the English words they would like to be able to use. We spelled the words in English in the sand to help the learning.

Thank you , Lord, for the blessing of relationships!

Love,

Lucy (for Dennis, too)

Puerto Peñasco, Mexico

March 2010

