



Jehovah-Nissi



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“The Lord is Our Banner”

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What has God been doing here ?



We don't yet have the all words to use, but it is amazing how much a sincere hug and the sharing of tears can communicate. Dawn recently was able to provide some comfort and make additional steps toward a closer relationship with Socorro. You see, both Dawn and she have 23 year old daughters, but Socorro lost hers recently as she was killed by the father of her 2 yr old son. Socorro and her husband are now raising him. Bernardo is a well respected restaurant manager who was working in Mexico City, while living in Puebla. His wife, Veronica and young daughter only saw him on weekends. He recently quit his well paying job because of an abusive boss. He is home with his family now, but without income for the past 6 weeks. Recently his wife's car was totaled. Ruth and her husband Memo have 3 sons. They were all born in Miami, where they lived for 15 years. Memo works for a large company here and is very personable. He also likes to drink, often and in excess. Ruth is involved with just about every home based business available. They struggle financially. Ignacio and Ivette are well educated and teach at the university level. They work crazy hours and are dependant on the bus system as they have no car. They have a 2 yr old son who lives currently with his grandma in another state because child care is not a good option here and work removes other options. Rosi lives here, her husband lives and works 2 hrs away in Mexico City. (continued on the back)

Harina, orina or is it arena ?

Three words you do not want to confuse...

The image to the left is of an ordinary typewriter that has provided a way for someone to arrange 10 characters in such a way as to communicate the idea of 'Latest News'. While a typewriter impresses images onto a medium, usually paper, learning a second language (especially at age 45+) feels like having things 'impressed' on your brain. Some stick, some don't. Almost all hurt, to some degree. Take the three words in the title for example. Written, it's fairly obvious that they are 3 different words, but spoken, especially with a 'northern' accent is quite another story. One word means flour, another urine, and the third is sand. So, mix these up in conversation around the kitchen and your pie crust turns out extra flaky with a strange odor while that crumb topping is a little more gritty than you expected! Such is the road to humility commonly called 'language learning'. We are so trying to enjoy this time while we have it and are certainly finding many opportunities to laugh at ourselves. We praise God for the many 'helpers' He has placed around us to encourage us and warn us of common mistakes that they made and don't want us to repeat. Tyler is learning very quickly from the guys on the soccer field, and at school. A young man named Jason has been meeting with him up to 2 times a week to answer questions about Spanish, life in Mexico, life in a 2nd culture, life away from 'home' and general discipleship type topics. We are so pleased God has provided this servant to speak into Tyler's life at this time encouraging and challenging him to walk closely with the Lord, especially at this time. So, next time you are at the beach, baking with flour or in the... (well maybe not then) will you remember us and our language and cultural learning adventures? Thanks!

Our kids were here in December! Behind them is a sculpture representing Juan Diego displaying his message from 'Mary'





In 2002 Indigenous women in Mexico performed a spiritual cleansing of Pope John Paul II

They have 5 children between the ages of 19 and 4. They are separated, and in her words, it's a good thing. Miguel and Lupita are living the 'American Dream' here in Los Heroes. He owns a printing business, she is a medical doctor. They have two kids in private school and both have excellent grades and aspirations of high profile careers. They lack one thing that everyone else you have read about lacks. Everyone we have written about is a neighbor of ours that we have some level of relationship with, and they lack hope. The only hope they currently have is well represented by the photo above. It shows the true colors of the Roman Catholic religious system that exists here and virtually controls life in Mexico. As you can see, just about anything goes, except of course; grace alone, by faith alone, in Christ alone. That is not welcome. We hope you have gotten a little glimpse of life in our privada- 1 of 100's here in Los Heroes, and the relationships God has allowed us to develop in spite of our limited language abilities and limited time to devote to ministry opportunities during these first 6 months in Puebla. We look on in awe of how God is pouring out His grace, and IS gathering worshipers for Himself from this place, right before our eyes!

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A Sacrifice of Praise :

- TYLER HAS BEEN ABLE TO JOIN A VERY GOOD SOCCER DEVELOPMENT CLUB. MANY NEW FACES NOW APPEAR IN THE 'FIELDS' (JOHN 4:35)
- WE HAVE THE BEST TEAM OF PRAYER, FINANCE, AND MINISTRY PARTNERS ALONG SIDE OF US
- KARA HAS BEEN WITH US SINCE DECEMBER. SHE BRINGS ADDITIONAL JOY TO OUR HOME, WE ARE SEEKING HIS FACE WITH HER FOR DIRECTION
- OUR CROSSWORLD TEAM CONTINUES TO BOND AND LEARN TO SEEK HIS LEADING FOR EACH AND EVERY DAY, BY HIS GRACE (JOHN 17:21)
- LEVEL III SPANISH HAS BEGUN. WE ARE CLINGING TO HIS GRACE AND PRAISING HIM FOR MERCY
- KARA HAS CONNECTED WELL TO PCS, TYLER'S SCHOOL, AND HELPING W/THE SPRING MUSICAL
- EVERYBODY MENTIONED IN THIS NEWSLETTER AS WELL AS THOSE IN OUR PRIVADA THAT WE HAVE YET TO LEARN MORE OF 'THEIR STORY'(ACTS 17)
- THE TEAM FROM FARGO ND COMING FEB. 29 TO TEACH ESL HERE THE 1ST WEEK OF MARCH
- DAWN HAS MADE QUITE A NAME IN THE PRIVADA AS A BAKER. WISDOM AS ONE WOMAN THINKS SHE SHOULD CONDUCT CLASSES (COL.3:17,23)
- HIS GRACE. MAY WE KEEP PRESSING INTO HIM

May the grace and peace of God be upon you.

The Goodlings in Mexico
Keith, Dawn, Tyler and Kara

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Praise the LORD with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and an instrument of ten strings. Psalms 33