

THE PUEBLA REPORT

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“AM I NOT YOUR MOTHER? HAVE YOU ANY NEED?”

The image to your right is a picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe; a prototype of the Virgin Mary. Mexicans believe that she is the mother of God and that she intercedes on their behalf. They pray to her, instead of to Jesus Christ, as well as pray to hundreds of saints and even the deceased. Many make the trip to Mexico City to visit the Basilica there; this was a favorite stop of the late Pope John Paul and is visited only second to the Vatican in Rome. We witnessed people, young and old, crawling on their knees for approximately 100 yards as they approached the Basilica; this is in an attempt to gain favor from Mary. Many also carry roses, candles or crosses as they approach her. There is a legend about this virgin appearing to a peasant, Juan Diego, in 1531 and asking that he go to the priest and tell him that she wants him to have a temple built to her so the people can worship her there. You can read about this for yourself at: <http://www.sancta.org/intro.html> There are pictures of her everywhere and altars built to her, this virgin who is believed to save them and supply them with anything they need. You will see altars and pictures on buses, walls in a store, for sale on sidewalks, on the walls of parking garages and people's homes. This is where they put their hope. They know of Jesus, that he died on the cross, but not that they can have personal victory and relationship with him or that He is the One who intercedes on their behalf to the Father. Any time Christ is depicted, He is still on the cross, suffering or dead. How grateful we are that He has risen and now sits at the right hand of the Father as our Mediator! 1 Tim. 2:5; Mark 16:19

5 PEOPLE ASK TO HEAR ABOUT CHRIST

We had a team of 13 people who worked together with the missionaries to teach English. Our English camps ran Monday to Friday, teaching children in the am, women in the afternoon and mixed adults in the evening. We had a total of approx. 85 students. Many good relationships were built; team members were invited to their students homes (this is a big deal in Mexico; it shows great trust). Five individuals asked for information about Bible studies and are already hooked up with the missionaries there to learn about the God of the Bible. This is the most, thus far, from any prior English camp. We are not permitted to share the Gospel in class, so we must get invited to homes or speak outside of class time.

We also had an opportunity to encourage some Mexican believers while we were there. There is a family of 5 whose father had lost his job several months ago. The



The Image of the 'Virgin'. Found everywhere

mother has recently started a small taco shop to help provide. They are fairly new believers and had not yet begun to tithe. The man told the missionary that he knew, from reading his Bible, that he needed to be tithing. He needed to trust the Lord to provide, we were able to deliver a financial gift from the Lord thru dear friends here in Lancaster who wanted to 'seed' into the Kingdom there in Puebla, on the very day that they gave their first tithe. God's timing is perfect!



NEWSONG ESL TEAM GETS INVITED TO STEPHAN'S 8TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

After classes were done for the week; we had some relax time as well as visitation time with families we had befriended. Across the street from the Prentice's home (missionary leaders) we were invited to attend a birthday party, Mexican style. It started 2 hours after we were told it would, there was lots of food, spicy, and we finally got to eat some "corn on a stick" that we had heard so much about the past 2 years there. It's corn on the cob, on a stick, with a special mayonnaise, cheese and chili pepper seasoning. Pretty good! The kids all took turns at a piñata; it was about to break when they handed the "big stick" to Tyler and let this American teenager be the one who actually broke it and let the candy come flying out. It was nice of them to include him like that; what an honor. All the while, there was always a street soccer game going on right in front of the houses. Tyler played soccer about 5 hours/day and still wanted more! He was accepted easily among his peers as well

as the older guys who played pretty serious ball on a concrete court every evening. Our group was privileged to be included in the party.....13 more mouths to feed!



Stephan surrounded by his special guests

OUR NEW LIVES AS OFFICIAL APPOINTEES

Now we will attempt to catch you up on our personal lives since the summer. Danielle graduated with honors from Cedarville, got engaged in June to Geoff Peck and decided to wait until next fall to go to grad school at Regent in VA. She is working FT and saving money for a wedding (June 07') and married life in VA. Geoff is a grad student at William and Mary in Williamsburg, Va. Kara graduated in June and is working PT, pursuing Ft work and planning on taking some classes at HACC with the intentions of nursing school next year. Both girls are living here at home; an unexpected gift from God! Tyler is being challenged in a new school setting but we are encouraged at his perseverance. He'd rather be playing soccer all day. Where is home? Well, we left College Ave; figured 20 yrs was long enough! We moved in with some gracious friends for one month while waiting for our apartment at Wycliffe Village to be available. We moved into the apt. 8/15. Wycliffe Bible Translators is a missions

agency and have several apts. available to missionaries for short term living. We attended Candidate Orientation for Crossworld (mission agency we have worked with in Mexico) and were accepted and appointed for long term service to Mexico through Crossworld. This involves many things and has set a whole new ball of activity rolling for us. We have books to read, reports to write, more training to attend and financial support, as well as prayer support, to raise. We covet your prayers as we continue this process and preparation time; we are trusting the Lord to provide and currently anticipate moving to Mexico next summer. Please be in prayer as to how you might be involved in this ministry to the Mexicans. They are created in His image, just as we are and He desires to be worshiped by them too. Lord bless those of you who have 'walked' with us thus far. We look forward to seeing who will join us in the coming months. More details to follow soon.



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