

THE DANIEL UPDATE

DATE: SEPTEMBER 2014

LOCATION: GUADALAJARA, JA, MEXICO



Yes, here it is, one more of those missionary letters. We hope that this letter finds you well and busy for the Lord. Life here is extremely busy once again with the start of a new school year. Just as I imagine many of you have begun to settle back into the hectic Fall routine, we too are very busy as the Bible institute classes are once again in full-swing. Besides the institute, the construction of the Pocitos church continues, as do language studies, Brittany is teaching the children in school, and I am studying and preaching.

As I mentioned in the last letter, New Testament Baptist Church was to come lead the VBS in the Miramar church. Thirteen folk came in and did a tremendous job in teaching classes, organizing the games, and even preparing and serving a dinner for everyone Friday evening. Attendance was good, and several people made professions of faith during the VBS. Pastor Tim Daniel, Pastor Jackie Elwart, and Tim Brubaker, who is finishing his studies at Ambassador Baptist College, all preached during the week. In short we thoroughly enjoyed the time of fellowship with the group that week and appreciated all the work that they did.

I am also very excited about the work in the Pocitos church. The building is looking fantastic inside. The walls have stucco and floor tile is being installed this week. The exterior of the building and the interior details have yet to be finished, but it is so nice to be in the building. Also, we have had several visitors come to the services recently. One is a pastor in a neighboring town, another is a lady who's children in the U.S. keep telling her that she needs to get into a good Christian church, and this past Sunday a man from a neighboring town attended and asked a bunch of question. It throws the life-long church folk off a little to have Q&A as part of the service, but the man had his questions answered. I pray that he returns with more questions. At least he was paying attention to the message and trying

to understand. God led these folk to us. Please, pray for God to give us wisdom as we try to encourage the brethren and point the unsaved to Christ.

Another, exciting blessing that we have received since our last correspondence is that New Testament Baptist Church sent us some funds with which to retrieve our van from Texas and change its title over to Mexico. It will be nice to have a newer vehicle. We were so excited about that (I really can't explain how excited) and I began making some preparations for the trip to the border. In the midst of my preparations I discovered, quite by accident, that our Mexican residency status was about to expire. Talk about a drastic change in emotions. Almost immediately following the bright excitement of God's provision the black clouds came rolling in. We had less than three weeks to renew our residency or face losing all of our work toward permanent residency and have to leave the country.

Needless to say I felt a sick feeling in my stomach and confusion at the thought of losing our very costly residency. It all must be a mistake, I thought. After a few conversations with our lawyer, we found that in fact it was not a mistake. Although we had just received our residency cards in March, the government had begun counting our first year of temporary residency in September when we applied for residency. She said that in order to save our progress we would need to transfer about two thousand dollars immediately to pay for the government's fees. Being a Christian herself, she told us not to worry about her fees until we were able to pay her.

Jerry Shaw, Jr. helped me so much in working through the whole situation. I think he might have been more concerned about the whole situation than I was. I knew that we were in trouble, but I guess the gravity of the situation hadn't sunk in completely. I don't know about you, but I rarely have extra cash on hand. Jerry asked me how I was going to get that much money within a day or two. I told him, "It isn't my problem. I feed my kids and God feeds His." I don't say that to brag on myself but to brag on my Father. Honestly, I was helpless in the situation, but my God is able.

To explain every detail of God's provision in the situation would take too much time, but I will tell you that God provided for the need just in time and in full. Praise the Lord! I am very thankful for the special help of the Shaws, Brookhaven Baptist,

Pineforest Baptist, Lowe Memorial Baptist, Centro Biblico de Gracia, and our lawyer Rocio. They all went the extra mile helping us in this situation. Let me tell you about Rocio's character. I didn't know until after the fact but she aided us in our time of need in spite of the fact that she is going through a very hard time as her unsaved husband is divorcing her. Please, pray for God to bless her for her selfless kindness and for Him to comfort her.

With the residency situation behind us I am once again making plans to go to the border just long enough to get our van thanks to NTBC. Please, pray for safe travels through those cartel-controlled areas. Also, in just over a month I will be going on a mission trip into another Spanish-speaking country to teach the book of Romans in a seminar for pastors if the Lord allows. Please, pray for safety in travel, wisdom in sharing the truth of the Word, and for my tongue as it tries to teach in Spanish.

I completely forgot to take pictures recently, so that is why there aren't any in this letter. Hopefully, I'll be able to share some with you in the next letter. Thank you again for your prayers and support. "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Jesus Christ throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

In His Service,

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