

Dear Pastor Cliff & Friends at First Christian Church in Beloit,

We are sitting on the front step of our home after arriving back at camp 9:30 Thursday evening. We had a good flight and we were able to fit into 4 suitcases, 2 carryons and two back packs most of the stuff we need for the summer. This was a real challenge after driving with a suburban the last 14 years. Sara always takes extra flour and food for my diet that we cannot buy in Mexico and so that had to be fit in as well, although it was a very small amount. Things went well at customs and we took a bus from the airport to San Juan del Rio, where we were met by co-worker Brock Hower along with two of the men from our Bible Study. Arriving back at Brock's house we were greeted by the ladies from the Bible Study who had prepared a big meal to welcome us back. It was so good to see old friends and catch up on what had happened the last year in their lives.

We stayed with Brock and Heather the first two nights, as we needed to fix some water leaks and get the house ready to move into. Spending time with them was a great blessing. Their four year old was not sure what to think of us after a year. The first night he said, "You look like Uncle Rich but you do not sound like him." The second day he said, "How did you get so old while you were gone?" It was fun to be with their kids.

Sunday morning we were sitting on our front porch enjoying the beauty of God's creation, looking down the valley over the tops of the large oak trees as well as up the mountain toward the continental divide, talking and resting after the busyness of the previous three days. As we watched the high scattered clouds moving over us we were reminded of Psalms 103:11, "As high as the heavens are above the earth so great is His love for those who fear Him." We see so many ways God has shown His love toward us. And we are glad to have the health to return. His love is so much greater than the vastness of His creation and the beauty we see around us.



We began talking about a large Magay cactus close to the house that has given off its 20 foot flowered shoot before it withers and dies. In its final stage of life it gives off a beauty, fragrance, sweetness, and nourishment to the humming birds. We want this to be the picture of our lives. As we get older we want to give off the beauty of Christ as well as His fragrance, being a sweet natured person who provides nourishment and encouragement to the lives and souls of those we come in contact with. This is our prayer as we spend our next month and a half here at the camp. We were also looking at the flowers in front of us that the church from Fort Worth planted last fall before we left. Sara commented on how you have to pinch off the old blossoms so more new ones come on. We feel that is where God has us. We are being "pinched" in His sovereignty so others can take over the ministry and the camp can be in the hands of Mexican leaders. But still, in our old flesh, it does not make the transition any easier.

We do believe after being here for five days that God has a purpose for us returning. We have talked with the new director and feel very positive about his leadership. We talked to our co-worker Julio from last year, and even though he feels hurts from the past year, we had a good talk with him and his new wife. We have talked with the

contractor who has had conflict with the new director and is unwilling to accept Pepe's leadership. This was a difficult talk but one that God used for His glory. Now we are going to start separating what we want to leave behind or sell and what we feel we need to take to the US. It gives a different perspective on possessions when you give up tools you have had for a life time and Sara has special things she hates to part with. But looking at the cost of their worth, we are taking items like pictures and personal things that a person cannot put a value on, and leave the rest behind. It's a pretty major change!

We would ask you to be in prayer for the following items that are dear to us:

*This part of Mexico is experiencing an extreme drought. Most of the corn fields are bare. They planted the middle of May like normal, and some seed sprouted, but only about 1 out of 4. Now what is growing is turning brown and drying up. Without rain soon they will have no harvest, and the corn they raise is what they live on for the rest of the year. Pray that God will send rain soon.

*For the new believers who are taking a stand. Saturday night we had a study on baptism and what it signifies. At least seven adults want to make a public profession of their faith, knowing there will be a cost.

*Pray for Pablo and Antonia who were the first believers in this area. They are now living on the camp ground to provide protection from robbery before we came. They are growing and excited about being baptized, even though their oldest son is becoming more antagonistic toward them because of their identification with Christ. Pray for wisdom as they talk to family about their public act of faith.

*For the summer camps. We are still lacking counselors and there is still much to accomplish to be ready.

*For health and safety from another brain bleed.

We are praising God for:

*The warm reception when we arrived and how the believers are growing in the Lord

*For a VW bug to drive while here, even though it is a true Musgrave vehicle that needs a bunch of repairs.

*For Brock and Heather Hower and how they have taken us under their wing to help us. Brock also has give us use of his Ford pickup this summer, as it will be hard to fit a load of groceries for summer camp in a VW bug.

*For a house that was spotless and clean when we arrived, as well as for Enrique and Blanca and others who lovingly cared for the flowers while we were gone. Without their faithful watering we would have had nothing alive.

*For Tom and Sherry Dockweiler who have taken Matthew in as another son. Matthew enjoys them and he wrote us this past weekend that he was changing his name to Matthew Musweiler. Pray for a steady job for Matthew this summer.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We need your prayers and know that we cannot do what needs to be done without them. Thank you for standing with us.

Your co-workers in Mexico

Rich and Sara