

February 2012

Dear Friends at First Christian Church of Beloit,

There is a saying that “the only thing that is constant in life is change”. We truly feel that way. The change back to the US has been harder than we anticipated. It is amazing how much can change in 16 years. The first two weeks of January we traveled a lot and started to get the feel of Obrerofiel, the internet ministry that we will be working with. Sara was also able to start unpacking to get our home to feel like a home again. Then last week we were talking to the director of Obrerofiel, and he asked us if we would stay on full time with CAM and help in the Obrerofiel internet ministry rather than just be part time.

As we look at the impact of this ministry and the influence it is having around the world, we see the reason for his plea. Scott is just overwhelmed trying to keep up and needs assistance if people are going to receive follow up and spiritual help. We have chosen to do this and to make ends meet by both of us doing some part time work. Sara is applying to be substitute teacher in the public schools, and a farmer asked if I would help out two days a week with mixing grain and filling hog feeders. We realize this takes away some of our time from Obrerofiel, but our salary will need some supplementing, as long as it does not detract from our from our home, so this allows more flexibility.

Part of our new ministry is to enlist more Spanish speaking volunteers. This need has come about because a little over a year ago, Global Ministries Outreach established an evangelistic website to reach unsaved and hurting people in fifteen different languages. Never did they dream the number of contact that would come from it. This has exploded, and many people from around the world accept the Lord each day. These new converts want someone to write them and ask for more follow up help. Global Ministries Outreach has asked Obrerofiel, an online ministry of CAM International, to assist in following up all Spanish speakers who write in and request help. Obrerofiel was started in 2003 to provide online help to Spanish pastors and leaders by providing Sunday School materials, devotionals, a pastoral library, etc., all on line at no cost. Now it has risen to the challenge of ministering to thousands of Spanish speakers from 150 countries who are responding to the GMO website seeking follow up and counsel.

We are excited about the extensive outreach happening through the partnership of Obrerofiel and Global Ministries Outreach (GMO). In fact, we invite you to go to greatcommission2020.com and look at their website. The home page shows people as they are responding at the time you are on line. It shows the total hits per day, the number asking to receive Christ, the number asking for follow up, etc. This reveals the interest there is in spiritual things. As we keep reminding ourselves, the numbers are huge, but each response represents a person who God wants to come to Himself. It can break your heart if you sit and think about the number of people who are falling through the cracks due to insufficient personnel to help with follow up or insufficient funds to maintain the website. Last year alone in the first nine months 786,939 people responded making professions of faith. The number that Obrerofiel followed up on were 208,373. So many never had anyone to write to them for follow up or to answer questions. God has opened doors with a good friend from Grand Island, NE., who has put us in contact with Spanish pastors there, and we’ve received positive response from our Evangelical Free church denomination on a district level. It is our prayer that the first part of our responsibility of finding more Spanish speaking volunteers will progress quickly. We will never have too many.

The other part of our responsibility is one I find more difficult. That is working with churches and individuals to help raise funds to help support the ministry of Obrerofiel. One change that appears to have taken place in the last 16 years is the decline in concern about ministries outside of a local church's community. There is no doubt that there is a cost to maintaining an internet ministry, even though the cost per individual contacted is much less than supporting a missionary overseas. It is a new idea to many people. We are leaving this in God's hands, knowing that He can provide in spite of that. We are praying for open doors and financial partners for Obrerofiel.

God has also given us the opportunity to be involved in our local church through both of us leading a small group and assisting with the elderly and single moms and widows in our congregation. Sara is playing for the worship team and is planning to become involved in the local jail ministry. She has also been very involved with our neighbor lady who is battling an autoimmune skin disorder by taking her to doctor's appointments and therapy and being a supportive friend. There is no limit to the number of hurting people that need to be given the touch of love. Truly God can use each of us if we are available, whether it be in Mexico, another country, or the US.



Winter in Nebraska--A contrast with Amealco Mexico
Matthew tries to get his car out of the snow

Our home with a fresh coat of snow

We want to thank you for your encouragement and support. Thank you for your prayers as we continue to adjust back to the US and seek to build new relationships, especially where we can be fed and grow in our own walk. We feel a real need in our lives for this after giving and giving the last sixteen years. May the Lord bless you!

Your servants in Christ,

Rich and Sara Musgrave