



October 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

Thinking of the past number of months, the words to the hymn "Great is Thy Faithfulness" flow into my mind. God has shown His great care over us. Going into the summer we did not have many plans for travel this year, but God had other plans for us.

Russell traveled to the state of Chiapas in May with fellow missionary Jonathan Latham to continue giving training to a group of pastors there in the southernmost part of Mexico. It was a blessing to see how God working mightily in the lives of many pastors and leaders, and to see the churches growing spiritually and numerically.

Russell also had the opportunity to teach a Biblical Personal Finance class to the Juniors and Seniors at the Universidad Cristiana de Las Américas during the third trimester. It is always a joy to teach a Biblical view of financial management. Many students have contacted us years later expressing how these classes have helped them in their lives.

At the end of June we were able to make a quick trip to Kansas City for the wedding of one of Russell's nieces. It was a blessing that almost all of the immediate family was able to be together for a few days. What a neat time to hear how God was working in the lives of the different family members. We were also privileged to give updates in three of our supporting churches. We thank God for the supporters who have faithfully helped us, some for more than 24 years!

Returning to Monterrey at the end of June, we hit the ground running with many preparations for the end of the school year. What an exciting time to see many graduating from the university, better prepared for life, not just academically, but spiritually as well. We pray that God will continue to use these young people in their local churches to be light and a source for training others in the knowledge of God's Word.

After graduation, we quickly prepared for camp with Iglesia Bautista Genezareth. Debbie led crafts. Russell helped with audio, video and photos and Carena was a camper. God truly showed His faithfulness throughout the week of camp. The week started with a bit of difficulty getting the vans up to the camp as it was in the mountains outside of Monterrey. Then, we had a small fire on the mountainside behind the camp. We worked with the neighbors to put it out. We saw the mighty hand of God working and shaping each of us during the week. During this time we also had the privilege of hosting one Venezuelan student/staff member.

The week after camp we quickly changed gears to Vacation Bible School at Genezareth. This was the first VBS that the church had hosted in 10 years. Debbie taught one class of over 50 children, while Carena was an assistant in another class of 40 children. We saw many children come to VBS and hear clear plans of salvation. It was fun to watch Carena grow from being a student to helping a teacher. All of the workers were unified, serving Christ this week. What a blessing!

During the week of VBS, Russell switched gears to help fellow missionaries Gary and Judy Queen pack up their house here in Monterrey. For the past year Gary had been undergoing cancer treatments with the desire to return to continue their ministry in Monterrey, but God had other plans for them and made it clear they needed to depart from Monterrey. It was a difficult time, but God strengthened us and many folks from the church helped the Queens pack up. As the week progressed we saw that Gary's health was failing quickly, so on Thursday, the decision was made that Russell would drive them back to Texas and their daughter and son-in-law would meet them there in Mission and take them back to Houston. Gary's health continued to fail and on August 13th God ushered this faithful servant to his heavenly home.

A group of us from Monterrey were able to make the trip to Kansas City to be at the memorial service for Gary. Due to hurricane Harvey that hit Texas during that time, our return trip was changed. But even in all the changes and difficulties, God did a great work getting us home and it allowed us some special times of fellowship with dear friends. Please be in prayer for Judy and the girls in this time of loss. We have certainly missed Gary and Judy and their wisdom and ministry here in Monterrey.

During all the activities surrounding the funeral, school began again here in Monterrey. Carena is in the 8th grade and doing well despite missing a number of days of school. Please keep her in your prayers as she will be missing several more days of school due to our travel schedule.

In September, Russell was able to travel to Buenos Aires, Argentina for a pastor's conference. I enjoyed meeting a lot of new pastors and missionaries. It was a blessing to hear from several pastors that our OREMUNDO Bible Institute courses have been a blessing to their ministries over the years.

Please keep Debbie in your prayers, she has been having sinus issues for most of the year which really affects her hearing. There are many days that her ears are so sore and infected that she cannot wear her hearing aids. We have gone to several doctors and it looks like she will need some surgery soon to help clear her sinus cavity.

We would also appreciate your prayers as we will be traveling a lot over the next couple of months. Next week, we will be traveling to the west coast of Mexico to celebrate the marriage of one of the ladies who faithfully attended Debbie's discipleship group over many years.

In November, the Lord has given us the opportunity to return to the Ukraine for a couple of weeks to continue to help Slavic Baptist Institute prepare to offer their Russian language Bible institute classes online. God provided so that Debbie and Carena will be able to go this year as well. We are excited to see how God will use these Russian courses to train men and women around the world.

Thank you for your love, support and prayers,

Russell, Debbie and Carena Raymer

