

# Raymers

Missionaries to Mexico



November 2018

We thank the Lord for His strength and peace that He richly bestows upon us each and every day.

The past few months have been filled with change and encouragement after the passing of my dad. We thank each of you who uplifted our family in your prayers during this difficult time of loss. We are grateful to God for surrounding us with His loving peace. We are thankful for the comfort that God has granted to my mom over this time.



The end of May and the first part of June, Russell was able to travel to the Chicago area to record a couple of new courses for our Bible institute program. Over the period of 10 days he recorded 30 hours of Biblical Greek with Missionary Jonathan Rehfeldt from Uruguay. This was an answer to many years of prayer looking for a Greek teacher who was willing and able to record a course in Spanish. Russell was able to complete most of the editing between recordings, so that upon returning to Monterrey the DVDs could be reproduced and the online courses made ready. This week we are officially beginning to offer the online courses. Please pray that these new courses will be a blessing to many pastors and lay workers around the Spanish-speaking world.

July brought the end to another school year at the university and the day school. Twenty-five students graduated from the university. Please pray for these students that they will be a light in the community where God places them. Carena completed 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the Christian day school, and we are thankful for her hard work throughout the year. Even with all our travels during this past year, she was awarded first place in her group, as well as was given a special award for Christian character. We are thankful for how God continues to work in her life.



Once the school year came to an end, we took about three weeks in July to return to Kansas City to help Russell's mom with many decisions and projects that needed to be attended to after his father's passing. We are thankful for God's work in every situation during this time.



We returned to Monterrey just in time for our church's VBS. Debbie taught over 50 students in the 7-9-year-old class, while Carena was an assistant in the 3-6-year-old group. It was a blessing to see many of the young people from the church get involved and serve in the VBS. God blessed in many ways, and it was special to see the growth in many of the children during the week, as well as the difference between last year and this year. Pray for these children as 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s are not church children.

August brought the beginning to another school year. This year the theology department began a Master's in Theology with an emphasis in Expository Preaching. This is a two-year master's program that is completely accredited by the secretary of education in Mexico. The interest in the program was far greater than we had anticipated and had to limit the enrollment for this first year. The exciting part of this course is that about half of the students are taking the course online. This opens the door for many pastors and lay workers around Mexico to continue in their local churches while continuing their education. Russell and co-worker Danny are operating much of the online portion so that the teachers are free to teach without the distraction of trying to deal with the technology at the same time. Russell is also teaching a course in the theology department on the relationship of the church and the state. Debbie and Russell are also team-teaching a photography class on Fridays at the Christian day school.



We are constantly looking for new ways to encourage and assist pastors and their congregations to continue studying the Bible. In September we began offering 4 different one-year theological diploma programs online. This allows for continuing study of God's Word. We currently have over 30 students taking these courses.

Debbie continues her discipleship activities in the church and with some of the young ladies in the area. Currently they are studying the book of Philippians. The past few months have also been filled with weddings and baby-showers. This is one of the blessing of being involved in a ministry with a lot of young people. We are excited to see what God will do through these young couples!

Carena continues to do well in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. She loves music and is in the Jr. High (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>) choir and is participating in the university's choir this year. She also continues to take piano lessons and has recently began playing for their chapel services at school.

We appreciate your prayers and the faithful support of our ministry here in Mexico and around the globe.

Your co-laborers in Mexico,

*Russell, Debbie and Carena Raymer*

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