



The Raymers

Missionaries to Mexico

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February 2020

Dear Praying Friends,

The Psalmist often talks of declaring the glory of God and thanking Him for the blessings that come into our lives. We are overflowing with gratitude to our Wonderful Lord for the many blessings that He has richly bestowed upon us in these past few months.

Last January, Russell and a young pastor from Tampico were able to attend a pastor's fellowship in Florida. As they returned home the pastor told Russell that he needed to host something similar for the pastors in that area. After several months of praying and planning, in November, Russell, Jonathan Latham and a couple of young pastors from Monterrey traveled to Tampico for a pastors' fellowship and training. They spoke on the theme of discipleship and the importance of making it a vital, intentional part of one's daily life. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and encouraging one another. We are praying that this year we will be able to teach another fellowship in that area.

Carena turned 15 in November. Here in Mexico this is a big occasion, but she preferred not to have a big celebration choosing instead a smaller family time. We were able to have special time with a few friends and family celebrating her birthday and Thanksgiving together. We are thankful for her and the Christian young lady that she is becoming. She is excelling in high school and has enjoyed being in the university's choir. During the month of December, they had three concerts in one week. It was a blessing to hear the choir sing about our Messiah taking us from His birth to his death and resurrection and the future hope that we have through Jesus. She is currently in the chamber choir and continues her piano lessons.



Russell's mom spent almost a month with us in November and December. Then we spent Christmas and the New Year with her in McAllen. Russell's sister Jennifer and her husband David traveled down from Missouri to celebrate Christmas with us as well.

January brought a busy start to the year. Russell was busy with the beginning of another class in the Bible Institute. We are thankful for those who desire to learn more of God's Word. Generally, we have between 15-20 students in each class, but the new class is on the Psalms and has generated a lot more interest. We have about 45 people attending. Lord-willing in December we will have a graduation for those who have completed a minimum of 12 classes in the Bible Institute. Please pray for the teachers and those taking these classes.

For the past number of years at Genezareth Baptist Church, we have led the young people's program on Sunday evenings. Recently, the pastor has asked us to expand this and merge it with the Sunday morning children's program. We have been busy preparing for this change. There are a lot of details and planning to be done so that this will be a helpful training time for the children of the church. Our current plan is to begin this restructured program February 23. Please pray that God will provide the needed workers and that those currently serving in these ministries will adapt to the many changes that will be taking place. We will be working with children from preschool to junior high. Pray for an important instructional meeting this coming Sunday after the evening service.

Debbie continues to host a Monday discipleship time in our home. It truly is exciting to see the desire to study God's Word in these young ladies. It is touching to see the concern one for another and their desire to pray and attend to the needs of each other. Debbie also continues to be part of a Tuesday group with ladies from the church. The desire for God's Word and Christian fellowship continues to grow among these ladies.



Last night, Russell along with Jonathan Latham returned from Costa Rica. They were there for about five days teaching and preaching on discipleship. It was exciting to see the desire of a good number of people to learn more about what the Christian life is about and how to transmit that to others. Costa Rica is a country with much need of sound Biblical teaching. Please pray for the pastors and missionaries serving there that God will open the hearts of people to receive sound doctrine. Pray that many will realize that church is more than going to listen to a preaching service, but that it is a family, a community built around a love for God and love for one for another.

Thank you for your prayers and support. Without these we would not be able to do the work that God has called us to. Please pray for us as there are many activities over the next few months and for the start of the new children's program at the church.

Thank you for your love and prayers.

Your co-laborers in Mexico,

Russell, Debbie and Carena Raymer

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