

# RAYMERS

Russell, Debbie & Carena

## MISSIONARIES TO MEXICO

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March 2021

Dear Praying Friends,

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever. Psalm 73:26

The past year has been an odd year for all of us, but as Christians we can rest in the confidence that God is in control.

Mexico continues to be in lockdown, but over the past few weeks we have begun opening up a little. Churches have been limited to attendees for many months, then in a further lockdown our area closed all activities on Sundays so most of the churches switched to Saturday services. We have now returned to Sunday services at 50% capacity. The ages have expanded so that people aged 6-60 are allowed to be in church and go to places in town.

Schools continue to be closed with no sign of when they may open again. We are hoping that students at all levels will be able to return to the classroom in August. Debbie continues to teach an English class at the university. Her students are first year preparatory students and are learning to communicate in English. Russell has been teaching several classes at both the preparatory level as well as in the university. Throughout this school year he has been redeveloping the computer and information technology classes for the university. This has been a challenge for him, but it has been exciting to see the students advance in their computer knowledge. The course plan is to help them learn the computer skills that will help them in ministry and life. Starting next week, Russell will also be teaching a Biblical Finance class to the Juniors and Seniors of the university. All of our classes continue to be online, so this continues to be a challenge for the students and the teachers.

Carena is finishing her final year in the preparatory. She has been working very diligently to finish well. This past year has been a year of many challenges for her and her classmates. We are thankful to see each one work hard. It has been a special blessing for Russell to be one of their teachers this year. We appreciate your prayers as she finishes these last couple of months of classes.



Last Sunday was the first Sunday in a year that some of the children have been able to come to church. Many of our children still are not allowed to come to church or be out in the community. Throughout this year we have been recording a weekly children's class and transmitting it on the church's Facebook page. We are thankful for the many folks who have been helping with these classes. We are currently doing a series on the Life of Christ leading up to the resurrection. Many of the youth from the church are helping in this series. It is fun to see how God is using these young people, many of whom were part of our children's program not too long ago.

In December, a church from Juarez, Chihuahua contacted Russell asking for help training the children's ministry workers. Due to the shutdowns doing a training in person would be difficult at the present time, but God has allowed us to work with this church and help train their workers using technology. We are doing the training over a process of six months, about three hours each last Saturday of the month. We are recording two sessions per month which they are watching as a group. After they watch the videos we join them via Zoom for a question and answer time. The first two months have been a great blessing to all involved. We are thankful for several of our coworkers here who are assisting us with these classes.

Russell has had a dream for several years to record a friend of ours here in Monterrey who has great knowledge on Biblical archeology and on the Scriptures, especially the Spanish Bibles. In November and December, they were finally able to get together to record 60 Jewish customs and cultures videos. We are publishing these each Monday evening from December 2020 through the end of 2021. These short lectures are being made available so that pastors and teachers can use these nuggets of knowledge in their teachings and classes.

As we reach the one year anniversary of the shutdowns, we look back and see it was one of our busiest years to date. Russell has recorded and edited over 500 videos throughout this year. We are excited that these classes have been a blessing through this year, and will also be available to continue to proclaim the good news of Salvation and God's wonderful works for many years to come.

Debbie has recently begun meeting with her discipleship groups. She is very excited that things are opening up as it has been very difficult for her to participate and follow online services and online meetings with her hearing problems.

We appreciate your prayers as we continue to follow the path that God is laying out before us. Please pray for these next few months as we finish the current school year the first week of July. We appreciate your prayers for Carena as she has been battling some health issues this past year. We are trusting to have some answers over the next month or so. We ask for your prayers for the different areas of ministry as we begin to reopen and serve in new ways.

Thank you for your prayers and support.

*Russell, Debbie and Carena Raymer*