

# Russell, Debbie & Carena Raymer

Missionaries in Mexico



October 2023

Dear Praying friends,

The last few months have been full of excitement and wonderful opportunities.



During the month of June we hosted a missions team from Michigan. We warmly welcomed them with the hottest week we have had in many years. We were thankful that Carena was home from college and could help us with the week. We were working at New Life Baptist Church on the outskirts of Monterrey. We were able to help with some cleanup and gave the church a new paint job. It was also a blessing to be able to work with the children and minister in the services. We also participated with the day school and the university here that we minister in. We participated with the university and high school students on a special sports day. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and allowed many of the university students to practice their English. We had planned to speak in several special chapels with the day school for each level,

but we were only able to do 2 of the 3 due to the area losing power to the extreme heat wave we were having. Speaking of heat, on Wednesday morning as we prepared breakfast, there was an accident with the stove as Russell was lighting it, and he ended up with severe burns on his arms and his face. We were very thankful that we were only two blocks away from our doctor's office, and she quickly got to her office so that she could attend to him. Russell spent the next day or so on bed rest. We thank God for the quick recovery that was obviously from Him. By Thursday night, Russell was able to attend church with the group, however he needed to be kept as cool as possible. By Sunday he was feeling well enough to translate and be involved fully with the group, even lighting the stove for lunch. We saw God working through many lives to pick up the slack left by Russell's injury. Debbie and Carena both jumped in and made sure everything continued. Alvaro, who works with Russell in OREMUNDO who is also one of the pastors of the church, jumped in along with his wife Rubi with whatever was needed. His English dramatically improved that week. Our coworkers the Lathams also pitched in. We thank God for the many lessons we learned that week and the great work that was done.

During the month of July, we traveled to Missouri and to Colorado to visit some of our supporting churches. It was a blessing to see what God is doing in these churches. Many times, we feel the church is struggling, but we were able to see that God is continuing to do great and mighty things. We also took Russell's mom with us to Missouri so that she could see family and friends. We celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday with many family members and friends.



August brought the end to Carena's summer break, and it was time to take her back to Pensacola to continue her preparations. We traveled with another family from Monterrey as we took our daughters back for their second year. It has been wonderful to see how God has been working in Carena's life and her growth not only academically but more importantly in her growth spiritually.

Returning to Monterrey, school was already underway at the Christian University of the Americas. Debbie is teaching a class to the Teaching English majors on curriculum development, and Russell is teaching two classes, one to the second year theology majors called Relationship of Church and State and teaching Computers to all the first year students. We are thankful for a great start to this school year, and are looking forward to the great things that God will do during this year.

In September we started up the Tuesday night Bible Institute. We are thankful for 25 students who faithfully come every Tuesday for two hours to learn more about God's Word. The current class is on Christ in the Prophets. The end of October we will start a new 8 week class on the Writings of John. Please pray for the teachers and students that they will be able to continue preparing. Many come directly from work without going home. It is a great sacrifice for many to learn more of God's Word.



September also brought a new area of ministry. We have made many trips to southern Mexico to work in different areas with groups of pastors. Several of these pastors have been asking for additional training. We have begun a 3-month program that is taught via video conference. We have 51 people from 5 areas in Mexico joining us on Saturday mornings for 2 hours of training. The first Saturday they receive the teaching, then the second Saturday they are putting in practice what they learn, this is then followed by individual homework, ending on the last Saturday of the month with another video conference giving additional teaching and feedback on their projects. We have been amazed at the response to these teachings. We are praying that God will continue to do great things in many areas of Mexico.

We covet your prayers as the next few months will be equally busy with many trips in addition to our regular ministries here in Monterrey. We also continue to pray for the conflicts surrounding Israel, Ukraine and in southern Mexico. May God turn heart to Him. We have been blessed with rain this week which has helped with the dry conditions here.

Thank you for your prayers and support,

*Russell, Debbie & Carena Raymer*