

Niños de Cristo

The Crumbleys in Mexico

09-30-06

Subway Sandwiches and Mud

This past Wednesday night I stopped at Subway to grab a late supper right before I picked up Carrie from youth group in Texas. The sandwich dude behind the counter asked what book I had in my hand. I responded, "It's a book about Jewish culture and how it affects our Western culture." He asked if I was Jewish. Was it my large nose? I told him, "No, I'm a Christian and I enjoy studying Jewish culture. It relates to Christianity." He then blew my mind with this statement, "If I tell you I'm into Christian Science do you still want me to make your sandwich?" I smiled and said, "Why not?"

Off and on for the next 30 minutes we carried on quite the interesting conversation about God and how we can prove Him or not. I shared what happened to me that morning and watched his eyebrows raise with suspicion. "This morning after we picked up some children for our preschool we headed out a shortcut dirt road. After going about 100 yards we found ourselves stuck in the mud for over an hour until a friend from the neighborhood came out with a young Mexican man I had never met. They proceeded to help us free our suburban lodged in Matamoros mud, half mud, half glue. Right before they left, our friend, Oliveria, asked me to pray for this young man who was experiencing severe family problems and had even been attacked physically by his wife's brothers. I fully believe that the Lord had us go down that road and get stuck in the mud so we could pray for and encourage this young man. To me that proves God is real and working in my life."

I'm not sure if the sandwich dude, Ernie, totally bought into what I shared, but he did listen and God planted a seed. And now I know where he works and so does my daughter, Carrie. You may not believe that God uses simple things like stuck suburbans and Jewish books on culture, but I do. I believe God uses us daily as we pray and open up our daily schedule to him. (Did I mention we were singing before our friends arrived?)

Wow, What Is Happening?

Lots of good things are going on with our kids at preschool. This week we added five new faces and one of them is a teenage helper, Lupita, who is Oliveria's daughter. One of our primary age girls, Paola, reentered school a couple weeks ago after being out for two years. She is doing well and enjoying school. Another of the neighborhood girls, Deboni, will begin the process of reading and writing this Monday with the help of our coworker, Cindi Wachholtz. Deboni has never been in school and is now 12 years old. We have added another teacher, Brenda, a lovely young Christian lady who is married to Hector and has a baby boy named Jared. Hector is teaching Tony to play guitar and Brenda is teaching Carrie basic Spanish.

Prayers Desired

>>>Less abuse and more love in our kids' homes
>>>More kids in our school
>>>Vehicles and funds for Mexican workers
>>>Carrie's college search and driving in Mexico

>>>Continued love and unity in our staff
>>>Wisdom for construction of new church building
>>>Direction in new tutoring program for older kids
>>>Tony's sanity as Carrie drives in Mexico

Thanks...to every one of our faithful supporters...to Chris King and family for their gifts and visit...to many friends

for encouraging emails...to God for great friends and coworkers here...new church friends at Central Christian Church...

Brenda playin around



Kristi drawin pictures



Jared chillin out



Blessed to Be a Blessing

Being involved in an auto accident is one of the most traumatic events you could experience in your lifetime and often changes the course of your life, sometimes for the better, sometimes for the worse. Pedro Toga Chacha was involved in an accident last year and suffered several severe injuries and today walks with a little limp. I met Pedro at our Workers for Mexico Conference in August. Pedro and his father, Pedro, minister in churches near the city of Vera Cruz, Mexico. As I talked later with one of our coworkers I found out that someone in the other automobile had died due to injuries sustained. Even through all this tragedy Pedro remains steadfast in his faith and his calling to share the Gospel in Vera Cruz.

Gerardo Dominguez, who serves as minister here in Matamoros where we work, has experienced his own share of car troubles. If we were to back up to the summer of 2005 we would find Gerardo's car problems beginning on a lonely Mexican desert road with a broken down van overnight with his wife and two daughters. Not a safe place for a family to spend the evening or start your family vacation. (His cell phone didn't bail him out because Verizon can't hear you in the desert.) The next challenge came for him this summer when we were in Georgia. In July the new slightly used car which had been donated to him from a church blew its engine. He had it replaced by a rebuilt one which only lasted 15 days and then it died, and the warranty on the engine...well, there wasn't one. He was fortunate enough to borrow a van from a missionary friend. After that he was able to borrow a car here and there from friends. One fine day as he drove through the busy streets of Matamoros a car came out and he couldn't stop, 'smash!' Of course he was obliged to pay for the damage. Now he is still seeking transportation.

Pedro and Gerardo are two incredibly passionate Christian men with integrity and a zeal for the Lord like you just don't see everyday. They love the Lord, their families, and the people whom they minister. Often they struggle to overcome simple barriers like affording basic transportation and I do mean basic, like a mini-van for \$3,000 or a Ford Escort for \$1,700 or a truck for \$2,000. We are talking severely used vehicles. And when they receive these vehicles, like Pedro did last month, you would have thought they had won a new SUV on *Wheel of Fortune*.

We know of another worker here in Matamoros, Carmen, who has worked for approximately 20 years with street kids, rough kids, and the kind that make you want to not "spare the rod and spoil the child". She walks about 1 mile several times a month in the brutal climate here to the grocery store to buy food for these rough, but lovable street kids. She does her best to teach the Bible and live the Bible as preteen boys test her patience to the limit. She gets discouraged, worn down, but not beaten. She does not give up on them. She loves them like her own and they know it.

You might be wondering where we are going with all this. Here's my struggle and I do mean struggle. Kelley and I work beside some of the dearest and hardest working ministers and camp workers and children home directors you will ever meet and they struggle just to provide the basics of food, clothing, and shelter. We would like to ask you to pray for a few moments and thank God for providing those basics to your family. Then we would like to ask you to pray for a few moments and ask God to reveal to you how you can stand beside these ministers and their families. Maybe it's through regular, earnest prayer every week. Maybe it's through giving of some finances so these workers can continue to provide the basics. Maybe it's by giving a large donation of \$2,000, \$3,000, or \$4,000 to purchase a vehicle for a worker. Maybe it's by giving away a vehicle to the ministry of **Workers for Mexico**. Yes, you read it correctly.

If you would like to give in some way to help a minister, please write checks to **Workers for Mexico** and place a note with it for **Mexican Ministers**. You can send it to the below address. It is tax-deductible and you will receive a gift receipt promptly. If, however, you wish to donate a vehicle, please contact either me at 956-243-1666 or email at tonycrumb@hotmail.com. You can also call our director Francis Nash at 606-922-2812. Any donation you make to the Mexican Ministers will go directly to them. None of the money will be used by us or any office staff.

In Genesis 12:1-3, the Lord shares with Abraham how He is about to bless Abraham in incredible ways. He goes on to tell Abraham that the whole world will be blessed through him. Wow! That's powerful stuff. You and I as Americans have been blessed and we too have a similar opportunity as Abraham, we can bless others as we are blessed. We pray the Lord continues to richly bless your family and that you continue to richly bless others through your prayers, giving, words of encouragement, and daily life.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!
Tony, Kelley, and Carrie

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God Gives Us the Words...Praise God for giving Tony and Kelley the Spanish words to

communicate clearly with others. Kelley zips out more Spanish than a Mexican mama yelling at her kids and Tony has survived sermon number five in "all" Spanish. It's tough some days, but God gives us the words. How else do two forty something country folk speaka dah spanish?