

The Call Family Prayer Letter – Serving Along the U.S./Mexico Border

“Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel” - Eph 6:19

October 7, 2011

“That’s a Curious Accent”

“Dad, those roofers are speaking Spanish using different words!” So went the statement of my son the other day while we were visiting friends in St. Louis. We had just arrived from our trip from the U.S./Mexico border to the mid-west in order to meet with supporting churches as part of our ministry with MTW. I heard the banging and pounding of the hammers from the roofers, but had no idea that these men were Hispanic or spoke Spanish. I went out to speak with them and introduced myself in Spanish and was answered with a peculiarly different accent than we had been accustomed to in Mexicali. It turns out that they are from Honduras – the very same town where our missionary friends are serving with MTW! When they were ready to leave I helped translate for the crew chief and I was able to tell them I am a missionary and give them some tracts which explain the gospel message. We pray they read it and that God will use His Word to open their hearts.

More and more we see that Hispanics are living and working all over the U.S. There is a great need and opportunity to proclaim the Good News to these men, women and children! We pray that God will raise up churches all over North America which will reach out to these folks. While these opportunities are on the rise all over the U.S., there is a particularly great need to reach out and plant churches along the border. The San Diego/Tijuana metro area has somewhere between 6 and 7 million people. The Mexican side is virtually 100% Hispanic while there are hundreds of thousands of Hispanics living on the U.S. side. That does not even take into account all those who live in Tijuana, but work in San Diego County.

We are excited about what God might do through our church planting efforts in this region.

We are currently getting to know the area, praying, looking at different areas where we might plant and doing other preliminary work. Our teammates who will be working with us – Dave and Dawn Diaso – are still trying to sell their house and are raising their remaining funds to join us on the field. Dave and I are also recruiting others to join us in this new E4 team in San Diego. Please pray that God will provide buyers for the Diaso’s house and the necessary funding to join us.



The Calls at St. Louis Art Museum

There has been much interest among the PCA churches in the San Diego area about helping us in this work. I already know several people from New Life PC in La Mesa, New Life PC in La Jolla and from Harbor PC Mid-City that are interested in partnering with us. Please pray that God will mobilize the resources we need to begin this new church plant. This presbytery (South Coast) is

committed to church planting on the border and even has its own border committee!

Church Visits

As I mentioned earlier, we are currently visiting with churches and individuals who support us as well as asking others to join our support team. This October trip we are speaking at churches in Missouri, Kansas and Illinois. We hope to visit other areas in 2012. I have listed our itinerary below – if you in the area and are able to come and join us at one of these churches, we would be glad to see you! It is a joy to share what God has done the last 3 years on the field and about our new E4 team in San Diego. Please pray for our health, safety and that God would be at work through what I say as I minister at these churches.

God has faithfully provided for our support these past 3 years, but we are in need of additional monthly support as well as one time gifts. Please pray that God would provide and that we will trust in Him.

Conferences

I will be attending and/or participating in 3 different conferences coming up in October and November. I will be speaking at Christ OPC's missions weekend as well as Soaring Oak PC's missions conference in November. This is an opportunity to share what God is doing on the border and to teach, equip and mobilize God's people in God's mission! Our international director with MTW (Bill Yarbrough) will be coming to Tijuana to conduct Living in Grace Conference with a network of churches there. Please pray for God to accomplish His purposes through these events.

Prayer for Church Planting

Please pray that God will gather people to be ministered to in the San Diego border area. God's Word says that "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved" (Rom. 10:13). We desire that God would bring many to faith in Christ and that myriads would "call on the name of the Lord" and be saved. Ask God to open the hearts of many and to help us to begin Bible studies, evangelistic efforts and other ministries in the near future.

Crossing the Tijuana Border

Last month I helped our BEAMM missionary Gary Nantt move out of Tijuana. He will be taking on a new role as BEAMM's Director of Resource

development and will be based out of Florence, AL. We made several trips across the border with waits of up to over 2 hours. Gary loaded all his stuff into a U-Haul and made it safely to Alabama!



Crossing from Tijuana with furniture and boxes

October/November Itinerary

- Oct. 9 – Trinity PC in Union, MO (St. Louis). SS update.
- Oct. 10-11 – Trinity PC in Aledo, IL.
- Oct. 12 – Center Grove PC in Edwardsville, IL (St. Louis). Ministry update at Wed. night study.
- Oct. 14 – Potluck dinner with update on our ministry in Hazelwood, MO (St. Louis).
- Oct. 15-16 – Missions weekend at Christ OPC (St. Louis). Q&A in Sunday School and Ray preaching.
- Oct. 19-22 BEAMM Partnership meeting in St. Louis.
- Oct. 23 – Kirk of the Hills PC in St. Louis.
- Oct. 28-30 – New Life PC in La Mesa, CA (San Diego)
- Nov. 3-6 – MTW Living in Grace Conference with International Director Bill Yarbrough in Tijuana, Mexico.
- Nov. 11-13 – Missions Conference at Soaring Oaks PC in Elk Grove, CA (Sacramento).

Thank you for your support and prayers!

In Christ,

*Ray & Michele, Rebecca, Jeremiah,
AnnaGrace, John, Daniel & Christina*