

BORDER *Reflections*

reflexiones de la frontera

Summer 2009

Dear Friends in Christ:

A young Pastor friend once commented; "*Authentic Faith is full of fear and doubt, it is tried, tested and challenged*". I thought for a minute.....in my mind I acknowledged the fact that my faith seems to be constantly *tried, tested and challenged*. But how could it be that *Authentic Faith is full of fear and doubt*?

Jesus' disciples certainly had authentic faith, yet we see in **John 16:16-22** when Jesus tells them of the imminent things to come, their hopes were crushed, they became fearful, doubt prevailed. But then in **John 16:23-27** Jesus again teaches his disciples about **prayer**.

E. M. Bounds in his book, *The Necessity of Prayer*, sums it up so well; "GENUINE, authentic faith must be definite and free of doubt. Not simply general in character, not a mere belief in the being, goodness and power of God, but a faith which believes that the things which '**he saith, shall come to pass.**' As the faith is specific, so the answer likewise will be definite. '**He shall have whatsoever he saith**'. Faith and prayer select the things, and God commits Himself to do the very things which faith and persevering prayer nominate, and petition Him to accomplish."

My friend continued; "Doubt and fear are the twin foes of faith. The Divine cure for all fear, anxiety, and undue concern of soul, all of which are closely akin to doubt and unbelief, is **PRAYER**. Through our prayers we get strength from His strength."

During a typical week with a Short-Term Team we emphasize the spiritual aspect of the mission experience and especially **prayer**. Upon arrival at the work site we start the day with a devotional presented by one of our pastors, followed with prayer.



We also have what we call "The Prayer Chair", which by the way was instituted by one of our own Village 7 teams a few years ago. Individuals sign up for 15 minutes each and take turns on "The Prayer Chair" throughout the day praying for all sorts of ministry and personal needs recorded on the back of the roster sheet.

Every evening we have a daily debrief, sing songs, a devotional and prayer. This year we added on a voluntary basis an individual testimony from one of the team members. What an experience to hear young people share from their hearts the inner struggles they endured while coming to faith and accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Not to minimize God's hand in someones life overcoming addictions, broken marriages, prison time, etc., but to see God change young hearts from the loss of a parent, struggling with fully trusting God and the emotional challenges of being a teen.

The greatest blessing we receive serving with BEAMM along the US/Mexico border is seeing right before our eyes, God's hand at work in the lives of those we serve and those who make up the Short-Term Teams. **1 Thessalonians 1:2-3** *We always thank God for all of you, mentioning you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love. And your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ministry Update

Las Tierras Community Church, El Paso

This spring we had a group of volunteers from Las Tierras Church, local Missionaries, and some neighbors set the roof trusses on Jesus and Maria Rodriguez's home. In June we had a girls' basketball team from Village 7 Church in Colorado Springs conducting a sports camp. While they were in El Paso they along with some Las Tierras kids, put the sheeting on the roof. A couple weeks later a group from Chattanooga, TN shingled the roof. In July another team from Village 7 came down and framed the interior walls.



A local contractor is donating labor and materials to install rough plumbing in the walls. Also a local electrician will donate his labor to do the rough electrical. Pray that building materials and/or funds to complete the home will be donated.

As God continues to bless the growth of Las Tierras Church through the hard work of Pastor Manuel and Kim Padilla, so do the financial needs increase for the ministry. Please pray with us that those needs will be filled.

Encinitas, CA, Metal Building

The building is currently being stored in El Centro, CA awaiting shipment into Mexicali. Church planter Julio and Arlete Navarro continue to work through the final details for the land purchase. The plan is to have contractors pour the support foundations and erect the structure, followed by short-term teams working on the interior.

Nogales, MX

The new BEAMM church plant is progressing very well with Josue & Martha Mayo, Obed & Brenda Uc and Jacinto Ordonez leading the charge. Jacinto is in his final year of seminary which will be completed through extension and the mentorship of Josue Mayo while also serving in Nogales.

Juarez Community Center Land

Praise God that a 2-acre piece of land for the Community Center has been purchased. If the violence in Juarez subsides by next summer, BEAMM will once again take teams across the border. The tentative plan is to build the perimeter wall around the site and to also start the building.

Iglesia La Vid, Laredo



We spent most of our time this summer on the other end of the border down in Laredo TX, where Iglesia La Vid welcomed teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Pennsylvania to apply their construction skills.

It seems like when God's kingdom is solidly advancing in any one particular area that is when we see Satan in there with both feet causing problems. Such is the case with

Iglesia La Vid as they prepare to become a particularized church in January. That will also be the time they ordain their elders and deacons as they transition from a mission church. Our prayer is for the funding to come in soon so that we can complete the building for occupancy by the end of this year.

Several years ago La Vid was praying and planning for future growth. They purchased the lot next to them and 5 years ago began construction on a new sanctuary.

They submitted their plans for city approval, secured a building permit and started construction. Nobody was aware of the additional City requirements, procedures, and inspections as the job progressed. They trusted the sub-contractors that were hired to install the under-slab plumbing, pour the foundation, erect the building, build the masonry walls, frame the interior walls, and run the rough electrical.

This spring when we made our evaluation trip to Laredo, we found that in some cases the sub-contractors either performed poorly, grossly overcharged or both. Design changes were made resulting in code violations. The building is enclosed for the most part but funds are depleted.

Meanwhile God has been orchestrating events for the last several months. Violence in Juarez continues to be at an uncomfortable level, so BEAMM leadership decided to divert the summer teams to Laredo for work at La Vid. About half of the teams decided to take the summer off, but God chose a group of teams like no other. Thanks to each and everyone of you for your servant hearts.



The interior framing was corrected and completed, the sheetrock is all hung, the sanctuary sheetrock finishing is complete. The congregation will schedule some work days to paint the sanctuary.



La Vid has a strong youth group. Matter of fact they are the worship music and perform an outstanding job. They were key at the sports camp and VBS, plus they worked every day with the construction activities, and actually led small groups of workers. The interaction of the teams with the La Vid people was incredible. This too reflected the character of the summer teams.



John 13:35 *By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.* Truly the Christian trademark.

Dan Young our eastern regional director, along with Carlos Cano, pastor of La Vid, are trying to put together a couple teams for this winter to work on the building. These groups will be made up of individuals from previous teams who can come to Laredo for a couple days. Give Dan a call.

Future Plans

This fall we will be joining a team from San Antonio for a week to continue work on Iglesia La Vid in Laredo. Our goal is to complete the building and pass final inspections for occupancy by the end of this year. However, this will require \$30,000 to complete. Please pray with us that God will provide the necessary funds.

The first week of December we will be returning to El Paso again to work with the group from Chattanooga. We plan to hang sheetrock in Jesus and Maria Rodriguez's house.

Sometime this winter we will be meeting with the Western Regional leadership for pre-construction meetings in Mexicali to start planning the community center project. Again praise God for the metal building donated by John DeWald of Encinitas, CA.

Prayer and Praise

Thank you for continuing to pray for us. *Please* remember these praises and requests in your prayers:

- Praise God for the summer teams in Laredo and the progress made on Iglesia La Vid .
- Praise God for the outreach opportunity with the Pena and Rodriguez families in Montana Vista. Pray that the Holy Spirit continues to work in their hearts.
- Praise God for the growth of His kingdom through the BEAMM ministry along the US/Mexico border.
- Pray that God continues to bless the church plant in Nogales.
- Pray that God will insure a smooth closure on the Community Center land in Mexicali and that funding will be available for the construction start-up.
- Pray for Pastor Manuel and Kim Padilla as they lead the ministry in Montana Vista and pastor Las Tierras.
- Pray God will provide the funds and teams for completion of Iglesia La Vid in Laredo.
- Pray God will continue providing our monthly support as well as one-time.



The BEAMM ministry is very grateful to its partnership churches who share the vision for advancing God's Kingdom along the border. Again, we too, thank all of you for your prayers, encouragement and financial support! If you haven't already done so, please sign up to be a BEAMM Prayer Warrior! Just go to the BEAMM web site, www.BEAMM.org, then click on this icon to sign up!

Serving Him,

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