

BORDER *Reflections*

reflexiones de la frontera

Winter/Spring 2010

Dear Friends in Christ:

When I read **Romans 12**, one of the many things I see in this chapter is the short-term mission trip application.

Paul writes about the need for mind renewal in **12:1-2**. We need to think biblically! Paul reminds us of the need for mind renewal. Paul knew that if we are to act as Christians we must first learn to think as Christians, since how we think will determine what we do.

In the few years we've worked with short-term teams serving on the US/Mexico border, we see some of the things Paul addresses in Romans 12.

The "newbies" experiencing their first missions trip are willing literally to....offer their bodies as living sacrifices....! No ladder too tall! Insulate an attic in 130 degrees! Paint in your hair that doesn't wash out! Mucking mud and 'yuk' out of a ditch! Distributing VBS flyers in the neighborhood after worship service in your Sunday clothes, 105 degrees with the wind blowing the sand at 35 mph. Our first mission trip experience never lacks zeal and the burning desire to serve our Lord and His people, does it? We eagerly step forward and declare...."PICK ME!"

Fast forward. It's the tenth missions trip experience. "You want me to do what?" "In this heat?" "This is how we've done it on other trips!" "Start at 10:00, in the pool by 3:00!" Have we blocked the Holy Spirit at the door, and denied Him the opportunity to work in and through us? Have we allowed the mission trip experience to be just a "do good, give me a warm fuzzy"? Perhaps "self-serving"? **Romans 12:3**do not think of yourself more highly than you ought.....

Remember that God has selected us for a specific mission trip, on a specific date, and at a specific place. Whether it's our first or tenth mission experience, give

the Holy Spirit full opportunity to work in and through us, start with a renewed mind.

Ministry Update

Las Tierras Mission, El Paso

In February a team from Independence, Missouri arrived to continue work on Jesus and Maria Rodriguez's home. The El Paso mornings were chilly but by mid day the temperature climbed into the 50's. Maria served hot chocolate in the morning to get us jump started for the day's work, then served a delicious hot lunch each day.



The team leaders divided their group into crews assigned to various tasks. One crew completed the wall furring and insulation and hung the sheetrock. Another crew primed, painted the entire interior walls and ceilings. A few of the team climbed up into the attic to install the 'blow-in' insulation, led by a local contractor.

When Pastor Padilla was searching and shopping for an insulation supplier, the Lord led him to a local contractor who said he would sell the insulation at a discount, deliver it to the work site, and donate the use of his equipment to blow it into the attic.

A person should never be surprised when we see God's hand at work in all that we do. We could perhaps miss God's hand in arranging the contractor for this task. But as he is packing up his equipment for departure, he says, "I am so touched by the Las Tierras Ministry and its outreach to the community, I want to participate with my donation of the insulation as well". Just think for a moment.....and ask.....how many lives did I just see God touch? Mine for sure!

In the daily morning devotional Pastor Padilla reminds us that this dwelling, like all man made structures, will in time crumble. While God has given each worker the gifts and skills to build something that will in time crumble, He has also planned eternal impact because of this house.

The Holy Spirit through Pastor Padilla will not only work in the hearts of the Rodriguez family, but their friends and the neighbors as well, using this house as the stepping stone.

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.

Dios Soberano Mission, Mexicali/El Centro

The metal 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. However the owners of this property continue to be a problem so another site is being considered. The new site has existing facilities with a vacant lot next door for the metal building.

Ray Call and family are now living in Mexicali working with the Dios Soberano Mission. The recent earthquake in the Baja area of Mexico caused light to moderate damage in Mexicali. The church sustained a broken water heater and cracks in the plaster but it doesn't look like there's any structural damage.

Pueblo de Esperanza Mission, Nogales, Sonora

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. Ask That God would bless the mission as they begin meeting in a new storefront location.

Juarez Community Center Land

Praise God that a 2-acre piece of land for the Community Center has been purchased. The building plans are being completed and a capital campaign will begin soon. The number of murders continue to rise along the border, particularly in the Juarez area, so teams will not be going into Juarez this summer. Ask the Lord to protect His people, especially those BEAMM churches and missions.

Iglesia La Vid, Laredo

Kay and I just returned from Laredo where we joined a team from Trinity in Boerne, TX, and a team from Trinity in Montgomery, AL. This combined group exhibited enthusiasm and servants' hearts that were truly a blessing to all of us.



We had morning VBS and all-day construction at the new church building. The VBS was planned by the Boerne team and very well conducted by the two Trinity teams for the neighborhood kids. On the last day the group presented a skit prepared by the kids for the parents.

Over in the new building the teams retrofitted two exterior metal doors and frames, along with the fire-code required



hardware. A new temporary main entry door was also constructed to give better intrusion protection. The church recently hired a plumber to complete the wall plumbing in the restrooms, and had the inspections completed. Our construction workers hung the sheetrock and started the taping.



The congregation decided to have the sanctuary walls textured, so we hired a local guy to spray the texture on. The Boerne group is now planning to come down next month to paint the entire sanctuary, ceiling and walls.

The Iglesia La Vid youth group continue to play a very significant role in the nucleus of the church through their participation in all church activities and outreach ministries.

They also make up the praise band for Worship service.

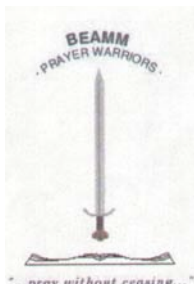
Future Plans

Summer teams are now filling the summer slots for El Paso and Laredo.

Prayer and Praise

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

- Praise God for the growth at Las Tierras in East El Paso. Pray for leadership to emerge from the congregation.
- 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 restrain the evil along the border, that His people will take the message of hope in Christ to those who now live in fear.
- 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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In order to save some of the expense of printing and mailing our newsletters we would prefer to send as many as possible via e-mail. If you would be able to receive them this way, please send an e-mail to gyting@aol.com

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