

Eternal Life Mission

TEPIC, MEXICO

SUMMER 2010

Summer Update 2010



PRAYER

REQUESTS

- **Mexico's conflict with the drug cartels**
- **Ayso and her treatment for leukemia.**
- **Evangelistic Home Bible Studies**
- **Youth Group**
- **Young Couples Bible Study**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9 What a wonderful calling we have been given as the Church of Jesus Christ! Despite difficulties and trials, we know that we belong to God, that we are His special possession. We know the wonder of being illumined by the Light of the World and now have the privilege of proclaiming that light to the world around us. As we have been studying through the book of Peter in the mission over the last weeks, these truths have become very real to us. When the darkness is the deepest, the powerful effect of the gospel shines most clearly!

In our last report, we mentioned that there has been an increase in violence in all of Mexico because of a government crackdown on the drug cartels. At the end of May and the first two weeks of June, the violence in Tepic gave us great concern. There were many people killed in shootouts between the cartels and police, and for a time it seemed that the situation was spiraling out of control, as in some of the border towns. Thankfully for the last two months things have quieted down, although there continues to be incidents between the cartels on a regular basis. Almost everyone in the church has been in close proximity and witnesses to some of these events. Please continue to pray for safety.

The 3rd through the 12th of July, we enjoyed having a group of young people from Canada to participate in our work. Normally we involve the team in evangelism and children's programs, but because of the violence here in the city we took the group and some of the members of the mission to an orphanage in Aguascalientes for four days. There are two Canadian Reformed families working there and they invited us to participate both in construction of buildings, as well as holding vacation Bible school and music classes with the children. At the request of the Canadian Reformed Church, we also held a worship service with all of the children and volunteers, and baptized Matthew, the infant son of Jeremy and Ana Van Beelen. It was a joy-filled occasion! Upon returning to Tepic, we went to the coast for a two-day retreat with the rest of the church. It was a blessed time of growth and fellowship for all of those who attended. (please go to our web page for more information)





Breakfast outside the conference area at the church's overnight retreat.



Matt Van Dyken preaches from *1 Peter 1* in the retreat's final session.



The team members' humble attitude of service toward their Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ was of real encouragement to the church.

- For the last months we have had Roxanna and Samuel and their large family attending our church regularly, while they were looking for work in Tepic. A number of their children were starting to attend the YP group. In June, one of their children, sixteen year old Ayso was diagnosed with a very aggressive form of leukemia, and began with chemotherapy almost immediately. They have since moved to Guadalajara in order for her to receive treatment. Please pray for this family.

- A number of our families have been undergoing some heavy trials because of health problems. Maria had major surgery and is still recovering. Alfredo, Maria's husband, was off work for weeks unable to walk because of a serious sciatic nerve problem. Marta's mother passed away after weeks of suffering from stomach cancer. These trials have people showing up to church on Sundays tired and worried. However, we are rejoicing to see the church praying and bearing one another's burdens in practical ways such as with phone calls and providing meals.

- Matthew Van Dyken, a third year student from Mid-America Reformed Seminary, has completed an nine week summer internship with us here in Tepic. He labored hard in preaching, giving in-home Bible studies, visiting, and helping host this year's team, and all this *in Spanish*. He adapted well to the ministry on the mission field, which often includes changes of plans, driving hours and hours through mountainous terrain, wielding wheelbarrows of concrete, and trying to dry laundry during rainy season. We and the believers here greatly enjoyed having him into our homes.



Our privileged position as God's holy people does not imply we are to rest on "flowery beds of ease." No, it is in the comfort of God's possession of us that we proclaim His praises: His love and His great salvation through Jesus Christ's finished work on the cross. We who have been called out of the darkness, must now work to dispel it with His marvelous light. Here in Mexico, opportunities to fulfill this mandate are limitless. In addition to the specific needs of our brothers and sisters in the church here, we ask that you pray with us for an increasingly bright gospel witness in this country that has such need.

Your Co-Workers in Christ,
Richard and Angela Bout

Are you interested in supporting the work of
Eternal Life Mission in Tepic? Please contact
Hope Reformed Church at:
clerk@hopereformedchurch.ca