

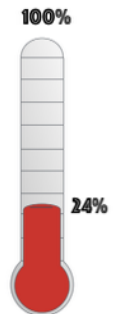
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NEWSLETTER

The End of One Chapter

Before we can set our sights on whats to come, allow us to reflect upon what God has been doing until this point!

When we arrived to our location in Cacalotepec, Mexico, we did not know what to expect and the journey was both as exciting as it was eye opening. We first needed to get adjusted into a new environment, place our children in a new school, and all the while attend language school. These last eight/nine months out in the field, we had to learn a lot. We had to learn to adapt, adjust, love harder, and for most of us learn a new language.

Along the way, we have been able to do amazing things for the Lord, we have met some pretty awesome people, and we have been able to join along side some like minded people to continue spreading the love of our Lord to His people. In every level of Spanish school, which was about 2 months, we had to not only learn a new portion of the language, we also needed to say goodbye to those who finished their time at the Spanish school. In addition, this was also time to get to meet the new people who were coming to school. We only had to do this for a few sessions, but our hearts go out to those living in town who do it every 2-3 months yearly. It's not easy opening up to new people and allowing them a spot in your comfort zone, only to say goodbye within a few months. But the people here do it time and time again.



Adjusting and readjusting every two months doesn't come easy and loving at this pace can be very unfulfilling. How can someone open themselves up, and for most, after 6 weeks have to say farewell? Keeping our distances isn't always an option when you have to welcome someone into your home, speak with them, and sometimes feed them, depending on the arrangements made. We can understand, to a certain extent, what those who do it all year long go through. We only had to endure this type of relationship for a few months. After a short time, we can honestly say it is not always easy. But it has been really amazing knowing that God has a purpose



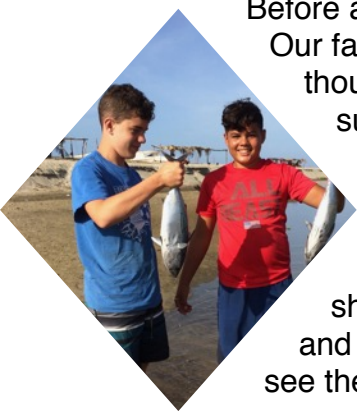
after here for each of them, and not only were we thankful to be a part of their stories, but we were also thankful to be able to watch their callings be fulfilled. We get to keep in touch and see all God is doing in their lives. So after it all, we thank the Lord for allowing us to meet people from all over the world, and we are thankful we have been able to extract the good. We were able to meet people who have the same heart for the Lord and for people of different nations and origins. We were able to unite and share testimonies and experiences of doing the work Christ has called us to do all the while, adjusting and settling in here to our new home.

When we first got here, we met with quite a few missionaries who were training up in the Spanish language, the language of the people God had placed on their hearts. Other people we met, were adventurous enough to just come to Mexico and learn a language from a language school they happen to find on the internet. Among them were a surfer and his wife with hearts of gold for God's children, an aircraft mechanic and his mother from Alaska, a family gearing up for their call to an orphanage in the Dominican Republic, and many more missionary families and singles prepping to head out throughout Mexico. All very unique, but with kindred spirits. Each one played a role in helping us get acquainted with our new environment and fueled our passion to seek out our specific call from the Lord.

Our last stretch of our Spanish school experience was our largest attendance. Our last session happened to be the biggest session because it was summertime, and there is usually an influx of young students looking to fill their summers with a foreign experience. We met a family from Philly, PA who we were able to befriend and share some fun and precious moments with, some students from NY who enjoyed a few fun movie nights with us, and a young lady from Tulsa, OK who shared in my daughter and wife's love to bake and cook new things. She came over every Sunday to bake with us and spend time with our family. Even though they came from all over the US, they all shared a common heart, a heart after God and heart for His people. Everyone had their separate reasons for learning Spanish but the root was all the same- the love of God.

TEACH ME TO DO YOUR
WILL, FOR YOU ARE MY GOD
MAY YOUR GRACIOUS SPIRIT
LEAD ME FORWARD ON A
FIRM FOOTING

- *Psalms 143:10*



Before and after our Spanish school chapter wrapped up, God blessed us with a few visitors. Our family members from home and church came from New Jersey to pay us a visit, and though their visit was more than a blessing to us, they came with an abundance of supplies and gifts. They brought surprises from other families who couldn't make it and blessed us with their love and thoughts. We spent a lovely time with them, showing them our neck of the woods and sharing in some experiences of the area. They experienced another side of the world and got to see what God is doing here in Mexico. We love that God provided this opportunity to spend time with them and show them the land. Each of the visitors reminded us of how great God's love is for us and for His children. Anyone who came to visit left changed and impacted, and we pray to see the fruits of their visit in the near future.

So what's next? As of now, the kids will be attending school as actual students and not just visiting students. Our boys are on the school's soccer team and learning new skills on and off the field. The other day practice was cancelled but the boys of the team still wanted to get together. So

they picked up our boys and they all met up at the field. The coach ended up having practice anyways. I am sure that he coach was moved to see all the boys and their willingness to keep at it and opened up the field for a proper practice. Leila also received her guitar from our pastor from New Jersey and she had been practicing non-stop. She is looking up chords online and has been practicing some of her favorite worship songs. As for us, the parents of these amazing children, we have been spending time at home with our children and also getting ready for September when we get to really plug in. For the next year, we will be attending the bible school here on the base to really connect us to the work God is doing here in Mexico. In addition, we want to allow God room to download to us spiritually and allow for the spiritual unity that comes from attending the school and being of one mind and accord with the staff of the base. In addition, we will be acquainting ourselves with the different pastors, cultural groups, and movement of God here in Mexico. We'll also be spending some time prepping and organizing short term teams. We also have recently signed up to help the christian radio station for the base with translating video clips for their Facebook page, and we will also be working with being the voice and translators into English for the bases' promotional videos. We also will be helping at the local church with starting a nursery. It's been a desire of Ivonne's to see this for the ladies especially understanding the need with our Zoe. This creates a space for the babies and moms to have a place to attend to their children's needs and still attend the service. We are also praying about our role with helping the base's staff and students in learning English. We need to work out a few details there, but God has put it on our hearts, and we know that it will be a blessing and He will work it all out.



We can't stop appreciating the love and prayers you have sent our way. God has us in the palm of His hand. We say it a lot but adjusting doesn't come easy, and we can't even start to imagine how much harder it would be without your love and prayers. We at times have felt the enemy trying to get a foot hold into our family, work, study, or just about anything he can get a hold of. But the word of God calls us to resist the enemy, and that implies that we have to work at it. We have to do something- resist! It is a spiritual battle and we must literally stand against the enemy and not allow Him any room! Here is no different and at times can be tougher because we don't have the same support structure as we did back in the US. But God is so faithful! We have learned to lean on Him more and grow even closer to Him! We are thankful for His never ending love and mercy. Please continue to pray for our family, individually and collectively, as we start this new chapter of our journey.



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