

Mixteco Christian Fellowship

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Maranatha! He is coming soon

Dear Family and Friends,

In this turbulent period of world events we see both history and prophesy developing into a tremendous culmination. The Bible has much to say about our day and age. Down through the ages, Christians have prayed and longingly awaited our Lord's return because He said "Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" (Luke 12:40). Many Biblical scholars believe that since its inception on May 15th, 1948, the formation of the tiny nation of Israel has signaled the "last days," that last period of World History prior to the Lord's Second Coming.

Struggling for their very survival against vastly overwhelming odds, Israel is a paradox. A miracle, yet to the serious Bible student this isn't a surprise. Rather it is prophetic fulfillment! Just as there are numerous prophecies regarding Israel's re establishment, did you realize that there are more prophetic verses regarding Jesus's Second coming than His First? His First coming was as a "Suffering Savior" to die in our stead as a ransom for sin. Jesus triumphed over sin at the cross, and then 3 days later its corresponding power of death by His Resurrection. What confounded many people (especially the religious "elite" who should have known better!) during the time of His earthly ministry was Jesus's mission.

People were expecting the "Conquering Messiah," the "Lion of the Tribe of Judah" in Rev 5:5 (His prophesied 2nd coming), not the "Lamb of God" (who takes away



Monica's kitchen is usually filled with kids, teens and/or adults, fellowshiping and learning about the Lord.

our sins! John 1:29). Yet because of His infinite love for us, Jesus became the only all sufficient sacrifice for sin. "This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:9-10).

"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

God's eternal love for us is the central message and meaning of the cross. For "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, (be eternally lost) but everyone to come to repentance"(2 Peter 3:9b). Tragically even as it was then, it is now. Many either reject or disbelieve Christ's offer. (Or even their true spiritual state as God sees them, hence their need for His gift of salvation.) This is the essence of the Gospel; our motivation (our mandate, if you would) to be here in Mexico sharing God's love and teaching His word.

It is our hope and prayer for you that these Scriptures would inspire us to "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory" (Col 3:1-4).



Even the van is filled with kids on a regular basis. It's obvious that the children want to spend time with the Alvarezs.

Israel gives Monica new insight

Monica's invitation by a dear friend to go to Israel was a breathtaking highlight for her. An overwhelming lesson she learned can best be expressed by her own comments.

AS THE MOUNTAINS AROUND JERUSALEM, THE LORD IS AROUND HIS PEOPLE BOTH NOW AND FOREVERMORE...PSALM 125:2

Going to Israel is most definitely the highlight of the first quarter of this year. Among the many sights, the many archaeological ruins, the many eye-opening, inspiring Bible studies, the many times of sweet and fun fellowship, the many (oh!!! so many) good meals, the many exciting things that we experienced and learned, one thing stands tall, and that is the fact that the Lord in His deep and rich wisdom and knowledge, in His unsearchable judgments has hardened the heart of this amazing nation so that we may be accepted in The Beloved!! WOW!!! What a love!!!

"I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited.; Israel has experienced a hardening in part until the full number of the Gentiles has come in. And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written..." Rom 11:25.

As we stood in front of that pile of hard cold stones called the wailing wall, which is the closest place to the Holy of holiest of the second



Walking around and by the Sea of Galilee provided such a clear picture of Jesus's time on earth.

temple, and as we drank the scenery before our eyes, streams of zealous, passionate Jews crying out, weeping, trying to fulfill and keep all the hoops and loops of the law, my heart leaped for joy !! joy that we can come boldly, we can have free access into the Holy of Holies!!! Joy and gratitude that a new and living way has been opened for us through His own body, His sacrifice!! Joy that we can approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need!!! What a High Priest has been designated to us!!! A compassionate, slow in anger, tender, abounding in mercy Lord that has been tempted in everything, and found without sin!!! And He knows our frame!! He knows we are but vapor!!

PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNESS!!!! PSALM 107:8

"...The Lord in His deep and rich wisdom and knowledge, in His unsearchable judgments has hardened the heart of this amazing nation so that we may be accepted in The Beloved!!

Mixteco
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Vicenta, at her graduation from YWAM's discipleship training.



Praise Report

We would like to take time to thank him for what He has done!!

- For the ongoing ministry of the Calvary Chapel West Covina folks, who continue to be such a blessing and inspiration for the whole community.
- For Vicenta's ministry at YWAM, for she continues to grow and serve with a quiet and humble heart.
- For the recent salvation of Jacobo, Fidela's son, a 14 yr old that got lost last December while attempting crossing through the Arizona desert at night.
- For the fun, enjoyable time we had when taking 30 teens to a Christian concert, followed by a delicious taco dinner.

Jose and Anastacia provide leadership in the colony

Jose (around 85 years old, but we're not sure) is most often called "ta-tee" in the colony by the literally hundreds of his offspring. No wonder why he reminds us of father Abraham!!! Fruitful and strong even at his age, Jose doesn't miss a chance to sweep, to clean, to move dirt and rocks, to level the very steep hillside, or to pray, to sing praises unto the Lord.

The father of 12, his eldest child is Aurelia, a great-grandmother carrying on her shoulders over 60 years of hard worklife, and the youngest child is Edith, a playful intelligent 12 yrs old. He is grandfather/ great-grandfather of how many????? Even he has lost count!!! Last we counted together was somewhere around 130!!!!

He is husband to a beautiful lady named Anastacia, just a few(?) years younger than he. Following the footsteps of her husband, Anastacia (in her forties) never misses an opportunity to serve, to cook, to make fresh flour tortillas, to pray, to sing, or to do whatever is at her reach to serve the Lord and His people. Sweet Anastacia wasn't always that sweet though!!! Given into marriage at only 12, and mother of five of Jose's children, she is as



tough as nails!!! They lived in the labor camps, the meaningless, hopeless and obscure days they lived before coming to the saving knowledge of Jesus.

Together they can be found sweeping out the church in the early morning, and Jose translates Andy's sermons into Mixteco for the people who don't understand Spanish. He sings with all his heart, frequently leading out in praise during a church service. Anastacia faithfully attends ladies' Bible study, and her prayers are fervent for her family, for her church, for her Lord.

To see them now, it is to be reminded of Jesus' words: "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the kingdom, blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the land; blessed are the ones who weep, for they shall be comforted."

Indeed, they not only have eternal life, but the abundant life Jesus promises to those whom believe.

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Prayer Requests

Please join us in praying for the following:

-The Lord's provision, and His wisdom on how best to proceed in building bathrooms and a kitchen for the church.

-The Lord's wisdom as we seek to help my parents in their elderly years.

-The ministry's financial status. Things are a bit tight right now. Once again we look to the Lord to provide in accordance with His will.

-Summer school in July! We know it is rapidly approaching because even now the kids keep asking us: "When do we start,

when do we start!!" (Equivalent to the incessant "Are we there yet?" while traveling!)

-If the Lord leads you, and you would like to help at this time for either the ongoing needs of the ministry or special projects (Those things that are dear to our hearts like Summer school, school sponsorship, etc.), please let us know. Regardless of their quantity or frequency, we always appreciate the gifts that are received.

-On behalf of our family and Mixteco brothers and sisters, Thank you for you love, prayers and gifts. God bless you!

Monica and Andy Alvarez



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