

## July-August 2013

Greetings from Sonora! Summer is upon us! Here, instead of announcing the days when temperatures go over 100, the local news announces when we stay *under 100!* So you can pray for our electricity bills! Here are our other *personal* prayer needs.

Our most urgent need, right now, is that the Lord would provide a **new (used) car for us.** We are planning a brief trip to Southern California to look for a dual cab, short-bed pickup. I have been researching models and types to try to find the best one. All of your prayers (and advice) is appreciated. We have a limited budget, but we are trusting that, just like He did with our trust Pathfinder, the Lord will make clear what we should buy.

Please also pray for His provision for this **short (2-week) trip** to Southern California. We are planning to attend the wedding of Lilia's nephew who recently lost both parents, connect briefly with family and friends, and get some needed ministry materials.

Currently, we are planning Gabe's next school year. **Homeschooling a high schooler** is very challenging, and we want to make sure that we do the best for him. Gabe will also enter a program here to "officially" complete junior high in Spanish, so that if he decides to transition into a local high school later, he has all the needed documentation. This is basically an intensive, two-month course ensuring he has completed all the requirements of Mexican junior high and then a day-long test. (Just so you know, Junior high here is 7-9th grade).

On a separate note, we'd like to ask for prayer for our dear friend, **Angie Velasco**. We met Angie when we first moved to Hermosillo about 9 years ago. Because she is a Filipina-American, we automatically clicked with her. She later moved to Cuernavaca, Morelos, where she has ministered for about 8 years, leading women's evangelistic Bible Studies. Last week, Angie suffered a sudden, major heart attack. We are receiving information from her home church, Crossroads Community in Vancouver Washington. Please pray for healing, clear direction, comfort, and provision as her health insurance is contesting coverage, saying it was a pre-existing coverage. Angie is single, but blessed with a strong church family around her.

2. In terms of Ministry - We are gearing up to start a **new neighborhood Bible Study** this August in Villas de Real. We have been praying about this since last April, and are excited to start! There has been an active kid's club there for about 2 years, and now we are hoping to reach the parents. Pray for unity with the couple we are working with, and open hearts for the neighbors in this area.

I (Jeff) have been invited to do a men's Bible study series at Calvario Bahia de Kino starting in August as well. The theme is "Leave no man behind: the Life of Barnabas." Pray that this study would minister to the men there, and that they would each seek to be "sons of encouragement" in their local church.

Also this summer, we will be **adapting all the courses for the school of Ministry** for a new, 18-month cycle. Pray for wisdom as we try to determine how to prepare courses that will meet the needs of people from the coastal area and here in Hermosillo.

Pray for Lilia, as she prepares to meet with potential new co-leaders of the **Children's Ministry** at Amor Fraternal. We would like to see them take a more active role in planning and directing this ministry.

Pray for the *Casa de Gracia* Children's Home. Pray for daily provision of basic needs, as well as provision to complete the **construction** of the building, to accommodate the children better and to be able to take in more children as well as staff.

Pray for active, dedicated, **consistent** <u>local</u> **volunteers**, nationals who could invest time and energy in the lives of the children.

3. With regard to Local conditions - The end of summer is one of the hardest times economically in Sonora. **As harvests end**, many field workers, who live paycheck-to-paycheck, find themselves with little to live on. With the intense heat and, at times, water provision cut to homes, life can be very difficult. Pray for the Lord's provision, and pray that the Lord of the Harvest would use this time to draw many people to Him.

Thank you for praying! God bless you all!

Jeff, Lisia and Gabries