

The Craig's Update

News for Friends, Family, and Partners
March 16, 2009

Monterrey Moments ~ Update from Scott Craig in Mexico

With Christmas and New Years almost a distant memory and Valentine's Day in the rearview mirror the pace is starting to really pick up here in Monterrey.

Feb. 13 - 16th we had our bi-annual Vision Trip, having just returned from completing our Cross Cultural Training Kathy and I had little time to catch our breath before jumping back into gear.

If you have never been to one of the Northern Mexico Vision trips I strongly recommend making your reservations for our next one in September. In one very busy weekend you get to see a whole lot of what the Lord is doing here in Northern Mexico and meet most of the folks the Lord is using to accomplish His purposes. **Attached below** you will find additional information about the vision trip.

With the help of several ladies from the Tennessee Valley Presbytery & one from a Dallas, Tx. church the MTW Northern Mexico Church Planting Team had it's first ever Women's Retreat. Ladies from all of our church plants were invited to attend for fellowship and spiritual refreshment away from the hustle and bustle of their daily routines! The setting for the retreat was up in the mountains southeast of Monterrey. The weather was not the best but with the rental of a tent and some space heaters they were quite cozy. Sleeping in cabins without a lot of heat they made it through the chilly nights with lots of Mexican blankets! A great time was had by all those that attended as Ruth Garza and Susan Sundeen orchestrated most of the events while Pastor Eraclio Conde and myself stayed on site making sure the ladies had what they needed.

February 22nd was a very important event in the young life of the Cumbres del Rey church plant, the church Kathy, Jeffrey, and I call home these days. Cumbres del Rey became an official Congregation, no longer being just a Mission. There are 3 stages in the life of a Presbyterian church here in Mexico. In it's first stage it is considered a Mission. The second stage is as a Congregation, and thirdly as an Organized church. Cumbres has been a Mission for only one year, reaching Congregation status so quickly is very exciting. Many special guests joined in the celebration by attending the worship service and staying for the "Fiesta" that followed!

Joyce Huyzinga has just finished up her two week visit using her skills in teaching sewing at two of our churches. It's a great skill for the ladies to learn but also an

opportunity to invite friends and family that don't know our Lord and Savior yet! Joyce also came and taught in Juarez for many years. Her classes finished in Juarez when she was able to teach a group of women to become teachers themselves. Some of the ladies have used the sewing skills they learned to provide additional income for their families.

With winter ending and spring beginning we are hosting a team working at our Christian School in Ciudad Victoria in March. Ciudad Victoria is about 3 hours southwest of Monterrey. Then it's onto the Project Orientation Trips (POT) in April where the teams preparing to come in the summer send one of their leaders. We all get together, the leaders, the church planters along with myself and map out as best we can the events of the coming summer.

The Lord does many great things in the hearts of those participating in and, or participating with the short term teams that come to Northern Mexico. So it is with great excitement and with great expectations we look forward to seeing what God will do this summer here in Northern Mexico!

After six months we're feeling a bit more comfortable here in Monterrey. Many things are different from our experiences in Ciudad Juarez and the Lord by His grace is giving us His patience as we navigate our way through these sometimes exciting, sometimes frustrating new experiences. All in all though the Lord is doing great things through the moving of His spirit here in Northern Mexico and we consider ourselves blessed to be a part of it all. It is our prayer that as the gospel continues to take hold of our lives we will be able to impart it in all we say and do to His glory!

“...Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit says the Lord...” Zech. 4:6

Prayer requests: for wisdom as we prepare for the POT's and the coming summer and that we would remember who we serve in the busyness of everything. Kathy will have her one year follow up with the Dr. on April 3rd.

Praise: Steve is attending Burlington County College, working at Jiffy Lube and staying with Kathy's parents. Our first grandchild is due April 4th. Kathy & Jeff are settling into a homeschooling routine and because of homeschooling Kathy & Jeff have been able to join me in Ciudad Victoria for the week. For our prayer and financial supporters who mean so much to us.

In Him, Scott & Kathy Craig

Cumbres del Rey

Pictures on following page



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VISION TRIP SEPTEMBER 4TH THRU 7TH 2009

Please make your plane reservations so as to arrive in Monterrey by noon of September the 4th 2009 and depart after 9:30 AM on Monday September 7th .

We will be met at the airport by the MTW Missionaries on the 4th and taken directly to lunch. In the afternoon we will spend most of the afternoon in the MTW Offices/Theological Institute going over demographics of where the churches plants are located and the places where we plan to start new churches in the future.

On Saturday we spend a very long, informative day visiting the missions and the church planters and learning their present status and their near and long term goals.

On Saturday night we usually have a big “Carne Asada” (Bar-B-Q) with some of the mission pastors and their wives as well as some of our missionaries.

On Sunday we will worship with one of the mission churches, have lunch and then off to the Metro-Centre to get a souvenir and the see the FLAG and the RIVER WALK. On Sunday evening we have a “debrief- session” where you get to ask all the questions you may have about anything related to the Northern Mexico Church Planting Network.

This is a brief overview of the Vision Trip but all are a little different. However, all are exciting and extremely informative.

You will need a passport and need to bring \$175 in **CASH** for local transportation and meals. Credit cards are fine for your hotel charges. **Also, you will need to fill out and return to MTW, a medical release form, which I will provide for you as soon as you purchase your plane ticket. THIS IS REQUIRED BY MTW.**

If you elect to stay in the hotel with most of us, the cost will be about \$60 per night or \$30 double occupancy. However, you may elect to stay with a Missionary or a Mexican family at no cost.

As soon as you purchase your ticket please let me know so that I can make all the local arrangements.

Please look forward to a very busy, exciting, informative and fun filled trip as you see what God is doing in Northern Mexico.

Blessings.

Al Couch
Vision Trip Coordinator

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