



The Russell Family

Missionaries to Mexico

Sep-Oct
2017

SENDING CHURCH

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SUPPORT ADDRESS

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PRAYERS

PLEASE PRAY WITH US

- Learning the language/culture
- Safety
- Church in Guayabitos
- Sarah's back
- National "Timothy"
- The lost souls around us

Buenos Dias, mis Queridos Hermanos,
(Good Day, my Dear Brethren,)

We are two months in, and living in Mexico has been a whirlwind of ups and downs, but God has his hands over it all. We had a little bit of culture shock when we first arrived. The idea of "we'll do it tomorrow" was a bit frustrating to deal with while trying to get settled in. It seems to take three times longer to do anything here. It's easy to get caught up in the frustration of it all and let it get the best of us, but we have found that when going through trying times it is best to take a step back and see what God hath done; and God has truly done amazing things in getting us established here!

When arriving in Mexico I was under the impression that we had temporary residency, but in reality we only had a one month visa to get the rest of our paperwork filled out, turned in, and accepted. It seemed impossible, but nothing is impossible with God. With help from our lawyer in Mexico City, we were able to go through the process and get everything done just in the nick of time. We have been granted one year of temporary residency; we are officially Mexicanos! Well kind of... our lawyer says when our green cards expire next year, we are able to apply for a three year temporary residence card, and after that we can get permanent residence in Mexico. Then we will officially be Mexicanos, not just want-a-be's.

In other matters of getting established, God blessed us with an amazing vehicle. We found an '04 Yukon with only 32,000 miles that was kept in storage and barely used for years. It's great having the extra room. We have already put it to good use, cramming in more people than are supposed to fit, to bring them to church. The people of Raymond's church have embraced us with open arms and have gone out of their way to help us find things we need, and let us help (the little bit we can) in multiple ministries. Sarah helps in the children's ministries, and is learning all of the songs and hand motions that go along with them, Kendra and the Jones' daughter, Rachel, have started an "English class" to teach the other little girls, and I am doing whatever the men have going on. We are very blessed to have started out with the Jones and their ministry.

The language is coming along great, especially considering it's only been two months. I noticed early on that I used my wife, who is fluent in Spanish, as my crutch way too often. I decided that if I was going to learn and strengthen my capabilities, I needed to try to figure out the daily things on my own. One day I went to the ferreteria (hardware store) five times in a matter of a few hours. On one of those trips, between the young girl and myself, we couldn't figure out what it was that I needed. So with a pen and paper I drew a picture for her to help us out. It has been comical, and a bit stressful at times, but the people in our town have been very gracious and helpful with me because they can tell I desire to learn. Also I have been spending some time everyday with people from the church to listen and practice Spanish. After two months, people from church and town are telling me they are impressed with how much I am learning. I don't feel like I'm learning at times, but it is encouraging when I can understand others telling me in their own language that I truly am learning.

There have been frustrating times and situations while trying to figure out how things work here and with the language barrier; but instead of allowing it to hover over us we have decided to focus on the reason the Lord has us in Mexico in the first place... lost souls. We have had great opportunities to witness to lost souls all around us. People are hungry for the word, but they are also fed up with religion. Willie, who runs the local meat market, is one of them. After asking him if he knows Jesus Christ personally in his life he told me "it doesn't matter, because all things heavenly run through green money". When I told him that I know Jesus Christ personally and he could too, he called me a liar. Others, however, have expressed gratitude because they have never heard the gospel of Jesus Christ, but weren't ready to make that decision just yet.

We are very appreciative of the support we have from so many churches and individuals in America; the amount of prayers, notes, and love offerings to get us set up here has been incredibly encouraging. We realize that at least one person seems to be praying for us each and every day. Even if it is only one person, that one prayer means everything to us because there is a daily spiritual battle. If you could pray for Sarah's back as well we would appreciate it. It seems that in the last month something has happened that has made it her back problems flare up and cause a lot of pain. Please keep praying for us, and know that we are also praying for you!!

Brothers and sisters keep up the good fight!

God bless-

*The Russell Family
Adam, Sarah, Cristian, Kendra, Braden*