



The Russell Family

Missionaries to Mexico

Jan-Feb
2018

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• Safety



PRAYERS

- Fluency in the language/culture
- Passports
- Return Tickets, and Timing
- Residency Visas
- Moving to Nayarit
- Church in Guayabitos
- National "Timothy"
- Lost souls around us (José)
- Safety
- Sarah's Health

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

A little late, but Happy New Year! This is my first letter of 2018, and like always, there's a lot of wonderful things that have happened these last couple of months, and a few hard times as well.

I will be honest without trying to whine, January was a very hard month for us. For almost three weeks we had serious stomach bugs, head colds, and flu-like symptoms going on for each of us. We were pretty much home bound, and missing lots of school for the kids and Mom. On top of that, our vehicle broke down at the end of December. Because of the mandatory Christmas bonuses that the Mexican people receive in December, the mechanic shop was filled, with a month long waiting list before we were able to get our truck in to the shop. But praise the Lord, we got over our illnesses, and the truck got fixed just in time before we took our first trip to the coastal church that God had called us to in 2014. The day we went was exactly 4 years to the day from the last time I preached there on our survey trip!

Our first trip to Guayabitos, Nayarit was an eventful trip. A young man from that church, who just graduated bible institute, had agreed to lead the church as interim pastor until we can get there this summer. Raymond Jones, myself, and this young man had agreed that he would stay on after we get there to help us build the church back up. The first day that Raymond and I arrived for a visit, he turned in a letter of resignation and left quickly with no reasons. It was a disappointment to start out the trip, but after spending Sunday with the church preaching (with Raymond translating), and fellowshiping with them, we were very encouraged. It was a great time seeing those that have stuck around through the years of hard times, and meeting new people as well. With everything that had happened, Raymond and I decided it was a good idea to visit them once a month and keep things going smoothly until the Lord gives me the green light to move over there full time.

Just this last weekend, February 18th, my family went over there second time (the first time by ourselves!) As I've mentioned before, the church lost it's building before we took our survey trip; so on this trip we took all day Saturday driving around the three major towns in the area, just getting ideas and keeping our eyes open to anything the Lord wanted to show us. We also sat down with the "pillars" of the church, these are the Americans, Canadians, and Mexicans who have been there since the beginning and kept everything together, and talked about the past, present, and future of the church. It was a very encouraging time, seeing what God has done through the years for them, and us, to bring us to this point. We are all excited about the future of what God is going to do! God has a plan with that church and those folks.

On our first trip in January their was a man named José that visited for the first time. His wife has been coming for quite some time now, but he had never gone before. The Lord pricked his heart that day about salvation, and he has been going back ever since. He was there this past weekend as well, and after the service I could see a different look in his eye and he told his wife he wanted to talk to me. When I finally got over to him, he told me he wanted to wait and talk to me next time I come. He said he needed more time to think and pray before we talked. I left it at that, so please pray with me for José that he would get saved and dedicate his life to Jesus Christ.

We are very excited to move over there and jump into the work, but I believe the Lord wants me to wait a little longer. I can't speak fluently yet, I can't preach in Spanish yet, and we have some more things to learn while spending time with the Jones family.

Some upcoming things that we would love for you to pray about are for continued learning in the language and culture. At some point this year we have to return stateside to renew our kids' passports. Right now I'm trying to save for tickets and the renewal fees. I don't know the best dates for us to go, so please pray with us on that matter of passports, tickets, and timing. Also, we need to renew our temporary residence visas for Mexico by August. This renewal should grant us three years this time, so we are saving up for those fees also and praying that everything goes through without any problems. As I've mentioned previously, at some point in time we need to move over to Nayarit. I would really appreciate prayer for God's vision with that church; and please pray that in His timing the doors would fly open for a place for us to live in, and the move would go smoothly. Finding a house and moving in Mexico is not an easy thing to do, as we found when we first moved down here. And finally, of course, please pray for the people of the church in Nayarit as we can only see them once a month for now.

Brothers and sisters keep up the good fight!

God bless-

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

