



The Russell Family

Missionaries to Mexico

August
2018

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PRAYERS

- Fluency in the language/culture
- Return Tickets, and Timing for passports
- Church in Lo de Marcos
- National "Timothy"
- Safety
- Sarah's Health

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

This last month of August has been very busy for us, as well I'm sure for many of you with getting ready to slip into the fall time with school and work and everything else that comes along with that. But I'd love to let you know what God has done, as well as the things coming up.

As I stated at every church that we presented at on deputation, I believed the Lord wanted us to spend our first year with another missionary family, the Raymond Jones family, in Mexico for the sole purpose of learning as much as we could before moving on to where God wanted us. Also, as I spoke about in the last month's letter we found a house near the church in Lo de Marcos. The Lord held me to that one year commitment it would seem. After all was said and done with the timing of the moving company, we woke up that first morning in our new house on our one year anniversary of being in Mexico! I didn't think it would work out to be that exact, so I got a kick out of that, as well as a lot of praise to God.

Anyone who has moved knows what a fiasco it is. The prep work of packing up the house, and loading everything up, the drive (which was seven hours for our moving truck), the unpacking of the truck, and setting up the new house. And boxes upon boxes— everywhere! It was a lot of work, and it's still a lot of work. The worst part about the whole thing is the 90 percent humidity that we have everyday with temperatures in the high 90's. It's very hard to be motivated in that kind of weather, but we've managed to clean up the church and organize it, as well as have our house almost done too. We are excited, the church is very excited, and we're all looking forward to what God has in store for Lo de Marcos and the surrounding areas. Currently we have a consistent 5-10 people every Sunday, and I'm preaching in Spanish! Well, it's actually more like I'm reading my messages once I have them translated into Spanish, but as every week passes I'm learning and growing and feeling a little more comfortable with my voice reflection and going "off script" to put my thoughts in Spanish. I am getting by, but I definitely want to put more work into being more fluent so I can minister to the people even better. Once we are a little bit more settled I have someone from the church who has offered for me to ride in his taxi with him everyday to continue to learn the language.

Another exciting thing for us this month was receiving our visas. Due to the government always being slow, unorganized and losing/needng more paperwork, they weren't approved until after we had moved over to the coast, but praise God they were approved! We took an entire day to drive four hours to Guadalajara, sit in the office for an hour, and drive four hours back...but we have 3 year temporary resident visas!! What a great feeling knowing I don't have to worry about it for three years. Hallelujah!!

Looking forward, we are excited for the work to be done in the ministry. We want to get started on everything now. We want to start looking at outreach ministries to reach as many people as possible with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We also don't have any teenagers except our oldest son, so we are looking at ways to start a teen ministry that would draw them to the church and draw them closer to the Lord. Please pray for our son to be able to find good friends so that they can encourage each other in the Lord. The only hesitance I have in starting now, is the need for us to go back to the states for our passport renewals. I would rather go to the states now and then come back and start. But Lord has confirmed with me that he wants me to wait on going back to the states. I don't understand, but I trust that he sees what I don't and I have faith that he will bless whatever he's planning to do. So pray with us about these ministries that we start, and that we can reach the whole town with Jesus Christ.

Another exciting thing is that the Lord has given us the opportunity to have pews instead of plastic chairs. A church in Montana upgraded their seating and praise the Lord has saved their pews for us and the Jones'. Half of the pews would go to Raymond and the other half to us. We are looking for a company/someone with a truck and trailer to deliver the pews to the border where another company would actually cross the border and deliver them to us. We would very much appreciate prayers for this to work out; the logistics, finances, timing, and the Lord's will for this transaction!

As I sit here in the church in Lo de Marcos with the door open, writing this prayer letter, greeting everyone that passes by, and talking to others that actually stop by because they knew of the church from years ago... I can't believe this is real. All the years of preparation: studying under my pastor and serving in the church, deputation, visas (twice now), moving to Mexico, the learning of the language and culture, moving again... we are here. I don't believe that we have "arrived", and I don't think we ever will, but we are here in Lo de Marcos to where God has called us to be missionaries. Praise and thanks be to God for his renewed mercy everyday along with his hand of provision and safety; but many thanks be to everyone one of you as well. All of you who have stuck by us and continually prayed, financed, and loved us for the many years. We are always praying for you and that God would bless you for your efforts in missions; please continue to pray that God would keep us safe and marching on in the battle.

Brothers and sisters keep up the good fight!

God bless-

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