

Veranewz



July, 2013 Veracruz, México

Prayer requests:

...according to His good will

- The maintenance of clarity in the preaching of the gospel and faithfulness in scriptural teaching
- The establishment of testimony in Cotaxtla
- Continued development of gift and exercise in the assembly in VC
- Effectiveness in reaching others with the gospel
- Couples united in exercise and service for the Lord
- God's guidance for land or a building for VC
- More souls to be reached in Cotaxtla

Thanksgiving:

- The goodness of God
- God's hand of preservation on the VC assembly for 4 years
- The baptism of our sisters in Cotaxtla
- Believers added to the fellowship in VC
- Timothy and Jenna's exercise for the work of the Lord in Xalapa

The months have flown by on us since the last edition of *Veranewz*, (Nov., 2013), and it would be nearly impossible to recount all the goodness of God and answers to prayer seen in the intervening months. As you would also understand, it would be difficult to describe the many needs and difficulties that have been very real in the same. So, in the spirit of Psalm 105, we will try to share as many of the highlights as we can for your encouragement and thanksgiving, while asking humbly for your continued prayers for the burdens and difficulties there are.

O give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name: make His deeds known among the people. Talk ye of all his wondrous works.
Psalm 105:1,2

In the port city of **Veracruz**, God graciously continues to work. He placed a specific exercise in the hearts of various believers about

the need to be constantly "fishing" for souls. VC is a large city, full of souls who need Christ as their Savior, and various efforts have been made in these months to "cast the net". After 2 weeks of nightly gospel meetings in November, the 2 regular week night meetings continued as gospel meetings over several weeks, and eventually one meeting returned to a teaching meeting. To date, there is a gospel message at one of the regular weeknight meetings each week. Over the months, many new contacts have come and have heard the gospel and we pray God will yet bless

... the glorious gospel of the Blessed God..."

1 Tim. 1:11

the preaching of the message that is so close to His heart. That grand and beloved message has been an encouragement and strength to the assembly Christians at this time as

well, and has also been a help to some who have come to the meetings previously professing salvation and searching for biblical teaching. The consistently good attendance and presence of visitors at the regular Sunday gospel meetings continues to be an encouragement as well as a cause for prayer.

God richly blessed in the restoration of a dear sister to Himself and to the fellowship of the assembly earlier this year as well.

In April and May, a series of teaching on local assembly truth was given with an exercise to be a help to each of us in assembly fellowship as well as those seeking biblical teaching.

There has been a notable work of God in these months also of bringing various people out to meetings who were contacted at the beginning of the work in VC, and for various reasons had not continued attending. In one case, a lady contacted through the Seed Sowers effort in 2007 had professed to be saved during a visit in her home at that time, but was unable to attend meetings due to severe complications with back surgery and pain. She had been to one or two meetings over the past few years, but began attending on Sundays this January with her granddaughter. All though improved, her mobility remains hampered and she lives with chronic pain, but with her characteristic broad smile, she said "This is how God has allowed my life to be, and I have decided not to let my condition hold me back from coming to hear the Word of God. When I think of all the Lord Jesus suffered, I know my pain is

...that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

nothing like His.” Please pray for this dear sister for relief of pain, and for her spiritual growth.

Another family who attended that first series of gospel meetings faithfully (Jan. ’08) but has come only occasionally since then, also regularly attended for several months recently and we pray for God’s continued work in their hearts.

Further evidence of God’s work is the wife of a brother in the assembly in VC. He has been faithfully and consistently developing in usefulness and responsibility since the birth of the assembly. His wife, a professing christian, made her disinterest in accompanying him to assembly meetings known over time. In March, she decided to go with the group to the conference in Zamora, Michoacán, along with her husband and daughter, making 19 of us who had the privilege of attending the conference. She has missed only one meeting of the assembly since then. Please pray with us that God will guide in handling her case with wisdom, that her salvation and conviction of NT truth will be clear in God’s time, and that this couple will be used mightily for His glory.

In April, our brother David Smith (Vancouver, BC) brought his model of Noah’s ark to VC and Cotaxtla during his “tour” in Mexico, accompanied by our brother Heriberto Gomez and his wife, Ester (Zamora, Michoacán). Many visitors in both places came to see the ark and received literature and heard the gospel. Even people on buses passing the VC hall received tracts as younger people boarded the bus in front of the hall with the driver’s permission, gave gospel papers to each one on the bus and jumped off a block or two down! Mr. Smith also kindly agreed to set up the ark outside of our children’s school and Heriberto gave a short explanation of the ark and a message in the gospel to the students.



...that ye may prove
what is that good,
and acceptable, and
perfect,
will of God.

ROMANS 12:2

In May, God gave the assembly the tremendous joy of seeing 3 believers added to the fellowship. May God richly bless the young sister, a less young sister, and young man who have each taken this step of obedience, and may each of them be faithful to God and His truth until our Lord Jesus comes!

This month, the assembly enjoyed a time of fellowship together to commemorate it’s 4th anniversary and also welcome Timothy and Jenna Stevenson of N. Ireland to the state of VC. July 15-19, the assembly is hosting a week of children’s meetings with the theme of “Ways the Bible describes salvation”. It has traditionally been a challenge to see children come in from the area of the hall, but this week we have seen better attendance than at other times, so we thank God and pray He will bless this outreach of the assembly.

The assembly has been praying for some time about having a building of their own, and the search has been long to find a suitable building or property. The hall is in the heart of the city and land of suitable size and location is scarce. In January, the search led us to a property a few blocks from the current hall which we thought would be suitable. We felt God was leading and opening doors to place an offer on the property, which was accepted after some negotiations. The sale has been held up by the seller since then for various reasons, including required legal steps, as the land was his by way of a will/testament. We learned recently that the seller has now passed away also, so the property and it’s sale are now in the hands of the adult children in the family. This presents further complications, and could be the means by which the doors close on the sale. We leave it all in the hands of our all-knowing God and we trust Him to do what is best, and ask you to pray with us for His guidance in this need.



In [Cotaxtla](#), the work continues, albeit seemingly more slowly, to progress. To God be the glory. It is difficult to see new people in to hear the gospel there, but there is a group of believers who faithfully come to the meetings, and it is a joy to see them learning and growing step by step. (Above: [Marta’s testimony is given before she is baptized. Ángel Baez of VC stands by to assist with any difficulties presented by the rocky river bed.](#)) In May, it was a delight to witness the baptism of 2 beloved sisters, and on that

...that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

very warm Saturday afternoon at the River Cotaxtla, our God was honored by their obedience. Various family members heard the gospel and witnessed the testimony of our sisters. We continue to pray for the gospel to overturn that little town. The darkness of all kinds of sin and indifference to spiritual things abound and we ask that where sin is full, grace will overflow. (Rom. 5:20) The weekly children's meetings throughout the school year were well attended and continue to give the opportunity to pour the gospel into hearts, lives and homes.



Cotaxtla children's class, June 2013

Various believers from the assembly in VC continue to travel with us to Cotaxtla as they are able, to encourage the believers and share the responsibility of the work there. We thank God for their exercise, and the way in which God is enabling them to now begin to "teach others also". A series on assembly truth was also given in Cotaxtla in March and April, and we wait on God to further develop conviction in the hearts of the believers there as well as desire to obey the teaching of the Word of God.

We enjoyed a visit for a few days in February from our two brothers Philip Lambkin and Michael Rodgers (London and Kitchener, Ontario) who came to follow up with contacts from [Coscomatepec](#), VC who work seasonally in Ontario. They were encouraged with their visit to Coscomatepec, and their help in ministry and gospel in both VC and Cotaxtla were very appreciated. Two brothers from the assembly in VC continue their commitment to make the 2 ½ hour trip to Coscomatepec once each month to share the gospel in the home of one of the families contacted through the work of our Canadian brethren. This past Saturday, it was our joy to accompany them and share the gospel and teaching with a family and 2 other ladies who came for the house meeting.

Monthly visits also continued to [Xalapa](#), VC (Emiliano Zapata), until God in His abundant goodness placed the exercise in the hearts of Timothy and Jenna Stevenson, commended from N Ireland in 2011 to move to Xalapa and serve the Lord there. They arrived in June and rented a home and now a little hall, and had their first gospel meeting in the hall this past Sunday. Our brother

has preached various times in the open air in a park downtown, and they were delighted with 5 people who came to the first gospel meeting. May God bless their efforts and may we meet many in Heaven someday from the city of Xalapa.

In June, John had the privilege of attending the conference and sharing some of what the Lord has done in Veracruz in Portage la Prairie, Manitoba. It was refreshing to see many fellow believers and a privilege to hear the ministry of the other speakers.

We thank you for your interest in and prayers for God's work here in the beautiful state of Veracruz. May God encourage you as you

Seek the LORD, and his strength:
seek his face evermore. Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm 105:4, 45

serve Him and bless every effort made for His glory and honor!

Family Section:

The children, especially Moriah and David, continue working hard to catch up to their grade level in the educational system of the school they began attending last September. It is an uphill battle, but they have advanced significantly, especially in English grammar and Math. All 3 are working hard at summer school for 3 weeks to advance as much as they can, then in August will have a much needed break!

Moriah and David are looking forward to participating in a Seed Sowers distribution at that time as well, God willing.

Above: Moriah, David and Jacob on David's 13th birthday in June



In other family news, God kindly opened doors for us to be able to purchase a home here in VC, which we finalized in March. The house needed a lot of work, and after many changes and improvements, we were able to move in on June 14th. We are enjoying our new home, and are thankful for the excellent location within the city. You will find our new address below:

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...that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3