

News From The Alms

(Written by Susie)
April 2008

To All Our Supporters, Family and Friends



Hi to you all from Mexico!! Sorry it has been so long since I have written a personal update but I am finally getting to it. There have been a lot of things that have taken place in the last several months and sometimes it is just hard to keep up with everything.

This picture is in front of our home in El Terrero, Mexico. The Lord has provided this nice home for us to live in for now. A friend of the ministry, Judy Sprague, is allowing us to stay here rent free; we only have to pay the utilities. Thank you Lord! It is very comfortable compared to where we had been living, and what I was prepared to live in. With the baby coming, it is much better; God knows when we need a little more space and comfort.

Right now as the roses are blooming here, we are in a time of rest as we await the birth of our child. The baby is due mid May so I only have a few weeks left. I have my good days and my bad days but I guess that is just the way it is going to be. The pools are open in El Molino (just ten minutes away) so I can go and get some good exercise when the weather permits and I am up to it. It feels so good to get in the water and let buoyancy take over for a little while! We are using this time to get things more organized and fixed up here around the house and making sure I am eating and resting well. After the baby is born and I recover things will pick up again.

As for all the things that have kept us busy for the last few months: Well, we have been traveling a lot. In November and early December we were in Colorado for some meetings with our ministry leaders and some much needed rest and rejuvenation after the move. In Jan. Timothy took a trip to Creel to help Pastor Gonzalo with insulating and sheetrocking his ceiling while I stayed behind, at our home in El Terrero, to be available to help a Mennonite missionary couple having their first baby at home. In February we took a trip to Madera for a week to help put in a water heater in a church and connect with the pastors there. Then we took a trip to Creel, Samachique, and Arepo to talk to the pastors, ministries, and individuals who make crafts, about the store that was opening in CO (featured in the March SOM newsletter). While we were there, Timothy helped fix a solar system for the YWAM base in Creel. We also helped Pastor Gonzalo get the porch started on his house, and helped Chad (a missionary in Arepo) work on his septic system, (pictures to your right; yes, that is me in the bottom picture trying to help as much as I could, being 29 weeks pregnant).



You should have seen the face of Mari Elena from Napuchis (picture to the left) when we bought almost everything that she had available, giving her 1,960 pesos (about \$170) for her handcrafted items. I don't suppose she has ever had that much money at once. It will help them to buy food and items needed for just plain life. Her husband is the pastor there in Napuchis. They live in a simple adobe house with a cement floor and tin roof, and do their laundry by hand in the river or a simple washtub. So this won't make them rich, but it will help them put food on the table. (More was said about her in the March SOM newsletter: ShineOnMexico.org).

Then it was up to CO for a couple of weeks helping with getting things ready for the opening of the store, doing a little work in the SOM office, and doing some shopping for the baby. Since we have been back in Mexico Timothy has made one more trip to the Creel area to get more items for the store (I stayed behind because I am getting too big and uncomfortable to travel, ugh). While he was there, he met with the director of the bible school in Samachique. It turns out that, as a favor to the poor in Samachique and surrounding villages, they have been trading food for the crafts made by the people, but have not had a market to sell very many of them. They have just been mostly collecting and storing lots of items. So they sent about \$1,000 worth of crafts with us to ship up to CO and sell!! We inventoried, packaged them, and Timothy took 15 boxes of crafts to go out on an IFM ministry bus from El Paso to CO this weekend! When we sell these items, the money will help them buy more food to trade with the people in Samachique. Things seem to be really taking off at this end. Pray that those in CO who are trying to sell these items will be able to market things well so that we do not

have to say no to the people here that desperately need a market for the only things that they know how to make. We also need someone that would be excited to take a lead role and help us improve our marketing strategies.

When we moved from Samachique and I joined in on my husband's work, I thought that I would be leaving behind all my skills as a midwife. Well, I am learning something; on the mission field you never leave behind any of the skills that you have. In fact you will often be stretched beyond your skill level. The story I am about to tell you happened on our Feb trip to Creel. I'll call it:

Don't Leave Your Instruments Behind!



We were staying at the YWAM base in Creel. One morning, as I was getting up, the ladies outside were talking. They were saying, "Maybe Susie could go with us". I went out and asked what was happening and they told me that there was a man that called from San Luis Majimachi (a village about a 45 min. drive away) and said that his wife, MariAnita, was in labor and they needed a ride to the hospital. The ladies going (Teresa and Susan, both staff at the YWAM base) wanted me to go along in case we had a baby on the way. It was not my best morning, I was feeling a little nauseated and was not sure about the roads as they were very rough; I decided to go with them anyway. I had nothing with me in the way of birth equipment. I had left all of it at home

not thinking that I would need it. Edith (the YWAM director's wife) had a blood pressure cuff, and a cord clamp. We also grabbed some blankets and some non-sterile gloves, and headed for the village.

When we arrived she did not look like she was in real hard labor yet but she was so stoic that it was hard to tell. We got them in and headed out; along the way we decided that the birth center in Samachique would be better for her than the hospital. By the time we got back to Creel she was having contractions every 2-3 minutes, and we still had over an hour to go. We did not even get out of Creel when she said that she needed to stop to go to the bathroom. When she came back to the car she told us that her water had just broken and that she did not think that we would make it before the baby came. So we called ahead and told Shelley to prepare for our arrival and Teresa drove as fast as she could on those mountain switchbacks.

Well, we got about 10 minutes from our destination when MariAnita told us that she needed to get out. I had an inkling that we were very close to delivery and asked her what she was feeling. But all she said was, "I don't know," and headed for a steep ravine. Not knowing for sure whether she just had to relieve herself or she was going to have the baby I started after her with blankets and gloves. I started down the hill but being 29 weeks pregnant myself, it hurt; so I hesitated at the top. Then I heard a baby cry; adrenaline kicked in, and I made my way (half sliding) down the hill. I picked up the baby out of the dirt and rocks and wrapped her in blankets. It was a beautiful little girl. We cut the cord with a pocket knife doused in GermEX and waited for the afterbirth. Everything was just fine. When we arrived at the birth center, Shelley was ready for us. We checked out the baby (and mother) thoroughly and except for a few scratches from the rough landing, and being a little chilled; the baby was just fine. So; from now on, I will keep my instruments with me!! You just never know when you will need them.

There are new opportunities that come our way almost every day. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue this journey. Here are some specifics to pray for:

- Pray for the store in CO, that they would be able to sell the arts and crafts that we buy from the people so that they will have a good market for their items and they can continue to provide for their families.
- Pray for us as I reach the end of the pregnancy. That all will go well with the birth of our baby.
- Continue to pray for clear direction. Pray that we will know which opportunities are from God and which ones are just distractions.

*"There is a time for everything,
A season for every activity
Under the sun."
(Eccl. 3:1)*

Thanks again for your support and prayers.
God Bless,

Timothy & Susie Alm
Serving The Lord in Mexico

To send financial support:

Make checks payable to **COGWM** and send to

**Church of God World Missions
PO Box 8016
Cleveland, TN 37320**

Our Project # is 065-0490. Please include this number in the memo portion of all checks sent into World Missions so that the funds will be credited to our account.