

Carnaval

The root of this word is "Carne" which means "Flesh" and that is exactly what is indulged for the 10 days prior to Ash Wednesday (Feb. 25) during "Carnaval." Autlan is a town of about 100,000 and has a big reputation for putting on a wild party every year. People come from Guadalajara and other far away places to take place in the revelry and watch the bullfights. The photo shows one of the streets they block off. It is almost an entire city block filled with booths selling Tequila. The scriptures that remind me of God's views on drunkenness ring in my ears as do the words of Jesus when he said "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." What a sober reminder of what the Gospel calls people to; to repent (totally change direction) and believe with the kind of faith that results in a changed life; a life that doesn't need to be filled with alcohol since it is filled with the Spirit.



Valentin

(Pronounced "Valentine.") A perfect name, wouldn't you say, for a guy born on Feb.14th? I have become pretty good friends with Valentin since he started coming to my English classes last September. He is about my age and has 2 teenage boys. He is a General Contractor and showed me a beautiful home he recently built. He really works hard on his English and we usually have coffee together after the class so we can chat.

Would you pray that Valentin will come to a bible study that I am planning to start soon? I would love to see him get excited about the Word of God and begin walking with Jesus by faith.

In This Issue

Carnaval

Valentin

5 year old on the loose

Clothing Distribution

Pray! Pray! And then Pray!

The Prince of Preachers

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First Furlough

We are planning our first home ministry assignment for October through December of this year. It will be a time of visiting family and reporting to supporting churches and friends of our work. We will also be trying to raise new support to bring us up to budget. We are currently lacking \$500 a month. If you have a desire to hear about our ministry at your church, please let us know, and we will try to schedule it with your Pastor now.

Clothing Distribution Center

Jo'ell has been working at getting a clothing distribution ministry started. There were quite a few things here when we came but it has almost all been given away. We are asking people to consider



Rick, Valentin, and his employee Samuel;
the

getting dirty doing some construction at
the Regional Training Center.

Christian turns 5 !

February 18th was a great day around here. Our youngest son is changing so fast! He is picking up Spanish with his friend Jacobo, and is enjoying using his toys in the courtyard. He gets a lot of attention in the grocery store from all the ladies shopping. They want to stop and touch his blonde hair. He gets shy but has learned if he is polite instead of acting annoyed he can sometimes get a piece of candy out of it! This Seahawks uniform Jo'ell picked up when Brent was about this age. Looks like a future tight end to me.



contributing to this need.
We need:

Children's Clothes
Adult Clothes
Toiletries

These items can be
shipped via DHL directly
to us.

*Please contact us in
you are interested in
helping!*

Projects

I continue to be kept busy
all day Tuesdays with
English classes. I have
continued doing
construction projects
here, and there are many
more to do. There are 2
roofs that need to be
sealed, patios to put in,
and lots of other projects
to do.

I am starting to make
plans with Tecate Mission
for Bible classes to begin
here probably in 2010
when we get back from
furlough. I also have a
desire to start a
literature/CD distribution
ministry. I would like to
accumulate a large
supply of Sermons,
videos, testimonies, etc.
to give out to people.

Thank you for your
prayers for me as I daily
make choices of where to
focus my energies.

PLEASE PRAY!

We value your prayers
more than you can know!
Please pray for:

Jo'ell - for continued

"Precious in the sight of the Lord...

is the death of His saints ." Psalm 116:15

We found out a few weeks back about the home going of an old friend, Moses Smith. Jo'ells family met Mo when they first started attending Silverdale Baptist over twenty five years ago. I remember meeting Mo shortly after we got married in 1990. He was an usher at Silverdale Baptist and always had a warm smile. He lived a life that glowed with the Savior's presence. He supported our ministry here faithfully even though he was on a fixed income. I have been combing my files looking for a photo of Mo but can't find it. Just imagine a strong man who lived a vigorous life for God into his late 80's. We saw him last at Camp Gilead in 2007.

Hat's off to you, old friend! You are missed!

success in
homeschooling

The Kids - that they would be kept safe here and continue to grow spiritually and academically.

For success in **Evangelism** - as we continue to develop relationships with people who need the Lord.

For **faithfulness** and determination when it feels like we are plowing in rocky ground.

A Daily Dose of Spurgeon

Tuesday, February 10, 2009

Morning and Evening by C.H. Spurgeon

"**I know how to abound.**" Philippians 4:12.

There are many who know "how to be abased" who have not learned "how to abound." When they are set upon the top of a pinnacle their heads grow dizzy, and they are ready to fall. The Christian far oftener disgraces his profession in prosperity than in adversity. It is a dangerous thing to be prosperous. The crucible of adversity is a less severe trial to the Christian than the fining-pot of prosperity. Oh, what leanness of soul and neglect of spiritual things have been brought on through the very mercies and bounties of God! Yet this is not a matter of necessity, for the apostle tells us that he knew how to abound. When he had much he knew how to use it. Abundant grace enabled him to bear abundant prosperity. When he had a full sail he was loaded with much ballast, and so floated safely. It needs more than human skill to carry the brimming cup of mortal joy with a steady hand, yet Paul had learned that skill, for he declares, "In all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry." It is a divine lesson to know how to be full, for the Israelites were full once, but while the flesh was yet in their mouth, the wrath of God came upon them. Many have asked for mercies that they might satisfy their own hearts' lust. Fullness of bread has often made fullness of blood, and that has brought on wantonness of spirit. When we have much of God's providential mercies, it often happens that we have but little of God's grace, and little gratitude for the bounties we have received. We are full and we forget God: satisfied with earth, we are content to do without heaven. Rest assured it is harder to know how to be full than it is to know how to be hungry-so desperate is the tendency of human nature to pride and forgetfulness of God. Take care that you ask in your prayers that God would teach you "how to be full."

" Let not the gifts Thy love bestows
Estrange our hearts from Thee."

This devotional is available on the web at:

<http://www.spurgeon.org/daily.htm>

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The hardest easy job in the world

Dear Rick,

From driving trucks for 25 years to going on the mission field is a big transition. Sometimes the mission field feels like this overwhelming task. It is very much unlike any other job in the world. You jump through a million hoops to get here and then pour your life out trying to reach people with the Gospel. It hits you just how hard it is to get people to change. How unable you are, apart from God's moving and working, to convince them of truths from scripture and see lasting change take place. It can seem like an impossible job, and you can quickly get discouraged. You have this deep yearning and brokenness; a feeling in the pit of your stomach when you see multitudes of people without a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The only deliverance you get from these emotions is to keep your eyes on the ball; that God is in control and uses people like me as "means" of His grace. He is in the saving business. This means I need to continue working as hard as I can but leave the results to Him. And remembering that "missionarying" is a bit like being a farmer. A lot of work goes into prepping the soil, planting, and watering. Then comes a lot of waiting without seeing much happen! I need to continually remember God's promises, such as 1 Cor. 15:58:

"Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

In these challenging economic times, ***we are truly grateful for the faithfulness of our ministry partners that allows us to serve here.***

Rick



COLINAS DEL SUR - our neighborhood