

Cuernavaca News

February 1, 2011

Dear Ministry Partner:



Nothing like witnessing a robbery right in front of my eyes!

Yes, that is exactly what happened one time I took the Metro in Mexico City. The Metro is the Federal District's train system. For three pesos (about a quarter) you can hop in and out of the train to go South, North, East or West of the world's third largest city. As of 2009 the free encyclopedia states that 21.2 million people live in this land mass of 573 square miles. Eight million people ride the metro everyday! Some of those days, your missionary takes this metro en route to other states, to attend meetings, to visit friends or to renew her visa or passport.

You can just imagine squeezing yourself in one of the train cars with masses of people trying to get in, while masses of people trying to go out at the same time! You have to be as fast as possible, as alert as possible, and cling to all that you have because before you know it, someone already slashed your purse, stolen your wallet or ripped off your jewelry.

I was meeting another missionary and her family in Mexico City this one time I took the Metro. She gave me specific instructions, "Angie, you have to carry only the exact cash that you need. Don't bring any credit cards. Don't wear any jewelry. Don't carry any purse. You need to hug your back pack in front of you. I will meet you at the Tasqueña

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(the bus station from Cuernavaca) and from there we will take the Metro”. Okay!
Adventure, here we come!

I arrived exactly where she wanted me to be. She was not there yet. No problem. I am used to Mexicans being late all the time. She finally came with her sister and niece. We did all the introductions with hand shakes, cheek kisses and hugs.

We walked up to the train platform to take the Metro. She lives in Mexico City, so she knows the color coded train system very well. We squeezed the four of us all together as soon as the door opened. She made sure I was hugging my back pack in front of me. We stopped at the first stop. One couple, obviously foreigners, were trying to squeeze themselves in with the masses of people, the wife got in but the husband was left behind and the train was starting to move. The husband tried to force open the closed train door with both arms and successfully did it. In the process of trying to force open the door with both arms on the sides of the door, he did not have his hands on his pockets, another man quickly got out. The train started moving. The foreigner got in and started screaming, “My wallet! My wallet! My wallet was stolen!” The train was already moving fast. I saw him trying to force open the door and the man quickly going out but did not see that the man who quickly got out had reached into his pocket for his wallet. It all happened so quickly! All I knew was everyone’s eyes were in suspense to see whether the foreigner could successfully force open the train door. He did, but paid a great price in the process!

I was in shock for a few days. Now, every time I travel to Mexico City I email my prayer partners to pray for me as I know how real the danger is and how close I get to it sometimes.

Would you pray for me for traveling mercies?

As always, thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support.

Sincerely,

Angie Velasco

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