

## CUERNAVACA NEWS

February 1, 2012

Dear Ministry Partner:

Happy Valentine's Day! Here in Mexico, we say, *Feliz Día del Amor y Amistad!* Valentine's day here is not just for romantic love. It is celebrated among friends and family. I often buy the ladies in my Bible study either flowers, chocolate or cookies in red, heart-shaped tin cans.

I am having a wonderful 2012 so far. Lots of answered prayers, new ladies in the Bible study group, wonderful and encouraging meetings with other leaders and missionaries. The Lord is also opening new doors of ministry, which I have not considered. At our last women leaders' retreat, Christa Foote our team leader, challenged us to ask the Lord for our verse for the year. I often have one, usually at the beginning of the year. It was already the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of January when I realized I still did not have my verse for the year. I have to be honest, during our retreat, after enjoying a delicious lunch, I was too sleepy to pray afterwards. I could not understand what I was reading from my Bible and was falling asleep. I decided to pray with another leader, as I knew it was futile to try to keep reading when I was falling asleep. Needless to say, I did not get my verse for the year that day.

I woke up the next morning with one verse in mind, Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us." I was a first year missionary back in 2004 sharing this verse with the church in Hermosillo through a translator, giving my testimony of how God called me to be a missionary. The Lord closed the door for me in Hermosillo through Valley Fever and brought me to a place I call paradise --- Cuernavaca. But the truth in this verse remains; He is able to do far more than I can ever ask or imagine through the power of the Holy Spirit. Who would ever think that something good could come out of cancer? How about broken marriages? Broken relationships? Broken lives? Death of a son because he was gunned down by the drug cartel? Multiple sclerosis? What good can possibly come out of these "bad" situations? From our perspective, nothing! But if we put God in the equation, our God, who is able to do exceedingly abundantly more than what we can ever ask or imagine, everything changes. Souls are saved, lives are changed, broken relationships are restored and new hope begins. It is amazing how He does it. I do not know how He does it, but I get to witness and see first hand what He is doing.

Let me tell you the story of G. She was diagnosed with a lump in her breast two years ago. Over here, before you have any surgery you need to ask your friends and family to donate blood to the hospital blood bank. My small group helped G. find blood donors. Some of the ladies would be at the hospital at 6 a.m. to donate blood for G.'s use. We have had five women come to the hospital and every time, at the last minute, they would be rejected. We even announced it at church. Church members came to me and willingly said; "yes" they would donate blood. Surprisingly, they too were rejected. We did not

Please send gifts to Shepherd's Staff Missions Facilitators, Inc.  
PO Box 53640 Albuquerque, NM 87153-3640.  
Kindly write Acct. No. 4028 on the memo line.  
Thank you.

## CUERNAVACA NEWS

understand why, but kept praying. In the end, after all those rejected blood donors, G. did not need surgery. The doctors decided to go ahead and treat her lump with chemotherapy. I was in the U.S. when she had her biopsy. The ladies contacted me saying they were with G. in the hospital. I was so glad they were with her as I could not be with her. The doctors decided to give her six chemotherapies. I was able to visit her after her first treatment. She was dizzy and pale but managed to get up and blow the candle on the birthday cake I brought. G. lives very far from my house so it is difficult for me to see her after each treatment. One woman from our church was with her so I did not worry. I would call every week to find out if she needed anything and often pray with her over the phone.



G. after her first chemo treatment

G. is now on her 5<sup>th</sup> chemotherapy. She looks very pale, lost all her hair and has no appetite to eat anything. Since her house was so far, I decided to just meet her at the public hospital when she has her M.D. visits, lab tests and chemo treatments. The public hospital is about 20 minutes from my apt. (without traffic) so it was easier for me to just visit with her while she is waiting for her turn. Well, over here at the public hospital people wait for 3, 4, 6 or even 8 hours to see a doctor, get their tests done or get another appointment. The first time I went with G. I had some gospel tracts with me, so I decided to pass them out since the people were just there, waiting. Pretty soon, one woman asked me what church I go to. I ended up connecting with this woman, as it turns out she is from Nicaragua, and had been looking for a church for a long time. When I told her I have been to Nicaragua, her eyes lit up and she was more interested in my church. The very next Sunday, this woman was at our church with her son. Her son signed up for our men's retreat and showed interest in our youth group. Praise the Lord!!! If G. did not have cancer, I would not even have come to this public hospital or even thought of evangelizing in this place. I worked in the hospital for 20 years. It is not the place I would choose to go passing out gospel tracts, but the Lord opened the door for me to be there accompanying my friend. Today G. had another M.D. visit, so I went with her again, and brought more gospel tracts. G's appointment was at 9:40 a.m. so we agreed to meet there at that time. As it turns out, she was missing two blood tests so we had to go to the lab, get the test done, wait for the results and see the doctor at 12 noon. For the first time in my life, I was not upset with the long wait at the hospital because it gave me more time to pass out gospel tracts and start conversations with the multitude of people waiting there. The Lord opened the door for me to talk with Selena today. As a nurse, of course, it is easy for me to ask health questions. I asked Selena why she was there. Selena read the gospel tract I gave her. I asked her if she had any questions. She said,

[Please send gifts to Shepherd's Staff Missions Facilitators, Inc.](#)

[PO Box 53640 Albuquerque, NM 87153-3640.](#)

[Kindly write Acct. No. 4028 on the memo line.](#)

[Thank you.](#)

## CUERNAVACA NEWS

“No”. As it turns out she used to be a church goer but for some reason or another, quit going to church. I invited her to my small group and to my church and promised to pray for her health condition.

Isn't it amazing that the Lord is using G.'s cancer to open a door of opportunity for me to be at the public hospital? Isn't it amazing that I would sit across from a woman from Nicaragua who had been looking for a church for a long time? Isn't it amazing that I would sit next to a woman with a heart condition when I had worked at the heart unit for seven years? This God, our God, the God that I serve, “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think...” I am in AWE!!!!

Thank you for your faithful partnership with me in Mexico.

Sincerely:  
Angie Velasco



Hosting a Sunday lunch in my apt.

Please send gifts to Shepherd's Staff Missions Facilitators, Inc.  
PO Box 53640 Albuquerque, NM 87153-3640.  
Kindly write Acct. No. 4028 on the memo line.  
Thank you.