

CUERNAVACA NEWSLETTER

March 1, 2012

Dear Ministry Partner:

Happy St. Patrick's Day! Here we say ¡*Feliz Día de San Patricio!* We don't celebrate St. Patrick's Day here in Cuernavaca. If I decided to wear a green outfit on March 17 no one would really notice.

The month of February flew! As I look back, last month had its share of joys and sorrows. Joys because my small group is growing and one gal was able to step up to the plate to lead when I got sick. On some Tuesdays I have as many as 15 women! Praise God! Sorrows because I had to go to the hospital for severe abdominal pain and my car, after 17 years of use finally died. Praise God my pain was not anything life-threatening and the doctors in Mexico City were able to take care of it quickly. I am raising \$15,000 USD to buy a one to two year old used car that hopefully would last me for the next ten to fifteen years. To date, my car fund donations stand at \$1,025 USD. If you think God might be speaking to you to help out please send the gift to Shepherd's Staff Mission Facilitators Inc. indicating specifically that it is for my car fund. Thank you!

My Bible Story telling class in Puebla has been a tremendous encouragement. I am learning how to share Christ by telling Bible stories. Another exciting thing is seeing how God is providing for one of the ladies in my group to come with me every month. In January, my missionary circle provided the money for M. to go with me to Puebla. In February, to my surprise, one of the ladies in my small group gave \$200 Mx pesos for M. to attend the class. I emailed our instructor about M.'s financial need and he decided to give her a scholarship. M. is 60 years old. She has a card that gives her discounted bus fares so she only paid ½ for the bus fare. One missionary family that hosted us in the past arranged for us to stay with their non-Christian neighbor as they had a visiting guest. This visiting guest ended up paying for one of our meals while we were in Puebla. It is wonderful to see how God opened the door for M. to go with me and incredible to see how God is providing for her. Another marvelous thing is seeing M. develop a heart for the lost around her. She sells packages of dog food as her business. She has had very slow sales for the last few months and in fact thinking of closing the store but is waiting on God for what is next. Meanwhile, she has befriended many children in the area as there is a school in front of her store. These children sometimes are hovering around her store so M. started telling them the Bible stories that we are learning in Puebla. Now, we are thinking of gathering these children every Saturday morning to start a Bible Club. Amazing!!!!

As I look back, about over a year ago, the Lord brought M. to my apt. I had planned to attend a wedding in CA back in December 2010. I needed a shawl to match my formal dress so I asked one of my neighbors to knit me a blue green shawl. This woman was M.'s sister. She came to my apt. to deliver the knitted shawl and brought M. with her. I

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Kindly put Account no. 4028 on the memo line.

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You may give on-line by logging on to www.shepsstaff.org, click on give then, donate on-line and select Velasco from the list of missionaries. Electronic fund transfer forms are also available on their website. Thank you!

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can still remember very clearly how M. asked me what I do in Cuernavaca since I was driving a car with a foreign plate and obviously with my Chinese eyes and accented Spanish she knew I was not a local girl. I answered boldly, "I am a missionary. I lead women's Bible studies." To my great surprise, she said, "Where is your church?" I said, "In Las Palmas." To my greater surprise she said, "I have been looking for a church for a few weeks now." Well, to make a long story short that week in November 2010 M. started coming to my small group and eventually to our church. Praise the Lord!!!! Now, one year and three months later, M. reads her Bible day and night, memorizes all the Scripture memory verses I assign and always comes prepared with her lesson. What a joy to disciple someone like her!!! What even greater joy to see how God is giving her a vision for the lost children around her!!! She is passionate about the Bible story classes that we are taking and each time after we get back she tells the stories we learned to her non-Christian daughter, the other ladies in the Bible study group and the children that hover around her store. Isn't that great???? Who would have known back in 2010 that the Lord would use my need for a knitted shawl to bring someone who needed teaching on how to grow in her faith??? As always, I am in AWE!!!!

I am privileged to see fruit in my work here. Back in the summer of 2010 while attending *The Women of the Harvest* conference in Colorado Springs, I remember meeting a missionary who was in Afghanistan for eleven years without seeing a single convert. I remember what she told me, after I said that I've been blessed with eight women in my small group. She said, "I just got back from traveling in Europe but I would trade anything, anything to have eight women be in my small group." It was only there that I realized I truly have been blessed to see fruit in my work here every year. Praise God!!!!

I thank God for allowing me to see fruit and thank you for your faithful partnership.

Sincerely:

Angie Velasco



Here is a group photo with M. on the far left side.

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