

June 13, 2016  
Prayer Update

Dear Friends,

**Thank you for your prayers** last week for my (Betsy's) trip to Hermosillo to finish teaching the Introductory World Missions class!

I sensed God leading in our plans:

\*A pastoral family, Pastors Gustavo and Rosalva, hosted us like royalty in Miguel Aleman (or as the locals call it "la Costa", the coast). We had typical food, meat with red chile and nopales (cactus) and delicious breaded shrimp, fresh from the sea!

\*One of the students, Rocío, who lives in La Costa, had good contacts for us to visit and interview people of two different ethnic groups living nearby. One man was of the **Mixteco ethnic group** from the Southern Mexico state of Oaxaca, who attends Rocío's church. He spoke Spanish, but his wife only spoke the Mixteco language. It was a great learning experience to find out about his early life in Oaxaca and migrating North to find work.

\*We got to visit a **Seri village**. The Seris are the ethnic group who live by the sea less than an hour from La Costa. Rocío's father takes fruit to the village to sell, and in turn buys seafood to take back to sell in the city to restaurants. He received permission from the village elders to take us to visit the leader of the village. It's not possible to enter their territory without an escort. We were greeted at the roadside entrance to the village by armed guards (bows and arrows, actually kind of frightening!) Our guide paid the quota to enter and we were able to interview the village leaders for about an hour. They told about their history, beliefs, legends and way of life. We were also surrounded by women selling their beautiful hand-made jewelry.

This all was especially interesting to me because back in 1976 when I took linguistics courses at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in North Dakota, Ed Moser, who along with his wife pioneered the language work among the Seri and translated the New Testament into the Seri language, was my Phonetics professor. So it was really exciting for me to be among this people group. Since most of our work is in an urban setting, it gave me a fresh insight into the need to pray for these isolated groups. People in general, and most of the Christians I talked to expressed a sense of fear of entering this area, believing that the group is closed to the outside world, and has many serious societal problems. I believe that going there is the first step in seeing them as people, and confronting our own stereotypes and prejudices towards them.

Coming back to Nogales we had a wonderful report at a missions event Saturday night from our two missionaries sent out by the Mexican Conference, Eunice Alvarez, missionary in Quito Ecuador and Eliab Jaime, heading up a church planting effort in Guadalajara, Mexico. Pastor Eliab sent out the call for workers for the harvest and many responded. **Pray with us that workers will join Pastor Eliab and his family in Guadalajara.** We will keep you informed!

Again, **thank you for praying!** I received a number of emails from our supporters saying you were praying, which was encouraging.

In Christ,  
Betsy and Guy

**Prayer requests:**

1. For our Light and Life (Luz y Vida) mission in Nogales, summer VBS preparations, and our leadership team to work well together as we seek to reach out with Christ's love in the community.
2. Our Annual Conference is this week! June 16-17
3. My mother's (Janet Johnson) health, back surgery in July. Betsy will be with her for a week in June.