

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



THE FIGUEROA FAMILY MISSIONARIES TO OAXACA, MEXICO

Learning the language of heaven

I used to always hear preachers say that Spanish is the language of heaven. As a child I often wondered if it was true. I think it would be awesome if this were the case, but the truth is, no one knows what language we will speak in heaven. Spanish is indeed a beautiful language, just imagine; there are over 15,000 ways to conjugate verbs. This may look complicated, but the truth is that God created this language so that we could have thousands of ways of worshiping Him in just one language. The study of language can be a wonderful thing if we use it as a tool for worshiping God.

This has been our task lately; to study and increase our abilities to communicate in Spanish. For the last two months we have been attending a missionary training school called Cincel in San Jose, Costa Rica. Cincel is a cultural studies center that was formed by the Assemblies of God to help missionaries adjust to their new life in Latin America. Our participation in this program is part of the process of becoming Assemblies of God missionaries. Our time here has truly been a blessing, Catherine and the children are learning a great deal of new Spanish. It has been exciting to see our children interacting with other Costa Rican children in Spanish for the first time.



Cincel Assemblies of God Language and Resource Center in San Jose Costa Rica

Spanish however is not the only thing we are learning. We are also learning about new ways to present the Gospel in Latin America. One example of this is a class we had on Cross Cultural Communication in Latin America, presented by a veteran missionary who is working with the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. Our time here in Costa Rica has been wonderful as we have learned so many valuable things that will help us become more effective when we get to Mexico. We will be here for approximately 5 more months. Please keep us in prayer during this time.

*May the Lord richly
bless you this
Christmas as we
celebrate the birth
of our Lord and
Savior Jesus Christ.*

Prayer Request.

- For continued health in our family.
- For enlightenment as we study Spanish.
- For Oaxaca as they deal with an ongoing teachers strike.

PLEASE SEND SUPPORT TO:

AGWM
1445 BOONVILLE AVE.
SPRINGFIELD, MO 65802
ACCOUNT 265694
Contact us at by phone at
626 513 4714
Email: efrain.figueroa@agmd.org
www.figmissions.com

Pray for Oaxaca

Since last May Oaxaca has undergone a teacher strike that has paralyzed the capital city of Oaxaca. Teachers along with other groups had taken over the main plaza of Oaxaca City for over four months. Many of the issues that the teachers were protesting for have been addressed and

many have returned to work. However; the protest still continues. The protesters known as the APPO said they would not relent until the Governor resigns. On October 20th federal police came in and retook the main plaza in Oaxaca. During this process 2 people died. So far, 11 people

total have died during this struggle. Please pray for peace in Oaxaca.

Perhaps it is Gods timing that we stay in Costa Rica for the next five months. It is our prayer that by the time we are done here peace will have returned to Oaxaca.





Royal Ranger Camp Out Cost Rica style

Recently David and I (Efrain) attended his first Royal Rangers campout, in Cartago Costa Rica. This was the first camping trip for this troop and everyone had a great time. The camp was held at the edge of two beautiful rivers with mountains in the background. Besides swimming in the river we all got drenched by heavy rains but it did not seem to affect the fun atmosphere of the camp. David had a great time going for

a ride on a rope bridge the crossed over the river. The novelty of setting up a tent for the first time and sitting around a camp fire was something these boys will never forget. It was funny to watch as we all stood around the camp fire with our mouths watering in amazement as one of the missionaries prepared beef stew in Dutch ovens over the camp fire.

It has been very exciting for David and I to



be able to participate in this Ranger Program. During our stay here in Costa Rica I plan to begin training to become a Royal Ranger Commander. The effects of this ministry on my son's life have been wonderful. It is our desire to use this program in every church we plant in Oaxaca.



Still raising the banner of missions

Last month we had the great privilege of meeting Dr. Lainer A. Gomez Solis. Dr. Solis is the director of Christian Education for the Costa Rican Assemblies of God and Pastor of a new church plant. It was very exciting for us when he asked us to preach at their very first missions service. It was wonderful to have the

opportunity to help plant a seed of missions in a church that was only several weeks old. This young church is already supporting several missionaries including one that will be coming to North Carolina. Our iteration may be over but we will continue to preach about missions every chance we get.



Catherine's Corner

Efrain talked about learning the language of heaven. At first, I thought that learning Spanish would mean agonizing over verbs. But what I have learned is that more often than not, the language of Heaven is more about the ear than the tongue. Growing up in California, I thought I had a good grasp of Latin culture. I'm finding out I didn't know how much I didn't know! It's a humbling place to be, but a good place to begin my

learning process. A few cultural insights I have picked up are how important it is to stop and take your time with people, no matter if you are on your way somewhere else. Also, how learning someone's family history is an integral part of building a continuing friendship. I'm finding out how time oriented I am, but also discovering the beauty of not thinking about time so much. God tells us to "Be still and know that I am God." Slow

down and stop rushing! Without this, there is no relationship, only our vain striving. I've applied the same relationship building advice to God's people. To learn not to rush has really been a healthy treasure for me to discover; learning how to sit in the presence of new friends and just "be," and often, just listen. Anytime we find ourselves crossing a cultural barrier, the ear can be just as powerful a tool as the tongue.

