



Aliza Curtis

WITH ABWE IN MEXICO

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Dear Gracepoint family,

It's been over two years since I joined two missionaries in northern Mexico and I'm very happy to report that our team has doubled! There are now six of us on the team, half Americans and half nationals. Last month, Carlos and I got married and will be continuing in the ministry together, hopefully for decades to come! I trust that God united our unique abilities and even weaknesses to strengthen our faith and work together in ways we wouldn't have been able to before. It's helpful that he's a native Spanish speaker and has lived here all his life. I'm also grateful that we can reach families and couples, whereas I previously focused more on women when I was alone.

As we are just getting started, the two most seasoned missionaries on our team are preparing to retire, which means the other four of us are learning how to take on different responsibilities for when they're absent. One of our biggest goals has been to involve local churches in sharing the gospel with the migrant farmers that come here from the south. Practically speaking, we want to expose them to the ministry by inviting them out with us and training them to evangelize and disciple in simple ways. Eventually, we want to hand over responsibility for them to "adopt" a camp. This is so necessary to be able to divide up and reach more migrants from the dozens of camps here.

This year, we had eight churches active in the camp ministry and several couples whose desire is to adopt at least one camp. Many of these churches were able to do Operation Christmas Child and other events in the camps. Currently, we are in eight different camps with speakers of more than eleven different languages besides Spanish. We often use the Jesus Film to show biblical content in these other languages, and various testimonies in Spanish.

We are actively discipling many brothers and sisters in Christ who have continued to return to Sinaloa and renew their working contracts. At times, they fall into temptations and we have to make extra visits to admonish and encourage them, but it is the Lord who makes them stand, as Paul says in Romans 14:4. I am certainly blessed by meeting with many of these servants of the Lord who have much to teach me about perseverance in hard times and having a child-like faith. And while I feel among family with many of these believers, some of the most exciting times are witnessing people who are responding to the Lord's calling. Recently, Carlos and I have been evangelizing a Mixteco family, a Tlapaneco woman, and several Otomi men who all come from towns without a Christian presence. Yesterday afternoon, we asked two of the Otomi men who watched a testimony what they would ask God. Quickly one responded, "That He would save me" and the other, "I would also ask that He would save me." I also can't help but smile as I listen to my Tlapaneco friend pray and ask God that He would help her repent more from her sins and follow His path. What confessions from someone who just a short time ago had never read the Bible!

What great joy it is for me to share this report with you, who have upheld this ministry in prayer as a church and individuals. Would you please pray for Carlos' and my marriage, his becoming a member of my mission board, for leadership among Christian believers in the camps, for new baptisms, and for a permanent church involvement in the camps? Additionally, please pray for my visits to women in the city jail - God has laid it on my heart to do one-on-one counseling with them moving forward.

In 1 Corinthians 3:7 Paul says, "I planted the seed and Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." May God water the seeds we plant and may we persevere in planting!

God bless you and hoping to see you all in the fall, Lord willing!

Sincerely,

Aliza and Carlos