

ONE YEAR WRAP-UP:

Though in some sense it feels like we just arrived, in another sense Mexico feels like it has always been home. The past 14 months have been a tremendous joy to us, and we'd like to share just two of the lessons the Lord has been teaching us during our first year as missionaries.

1) Being missionaries makes us ask ourselves constantly, "Why do we do this... because it's biblical, or because it's American?" The way I love my wife, the way I hold my baby, the way I drive, the way I pray, the way I preach, the way I think... it seems as if every aspect of our lives has been challenged, and we are thankful. Every time we are confronted with a new way of doing things, whether at church or at home, we have to sit down and consider whether we live the way we do because of a cultural preference, or because God commands us to so live. This spiritual discipline has been extremely profitable to us and is something I hope we can grow in wherever the Lord may direct us.

2) Being missionaries has rebuked our still meager hunger for God's word, and showed us how desperately we still need Him. It's not enough to have family devotions, we must have private intimacy with God. Yet it's not enough to just have private intimacy, we as a family must seek His face as well. As newly-weds, figuring out how to accomplish this is not always easy. But being a missionary who works out of the home has allowed us the flexibility we need to experiment. We face the failures together... and the victories as well. May we find even more time to read/memorize His Word and pray.

THE MOVE:

We moved! Due to an unexpected immigration issue that sent Luis and Robin Contreras back to the states for a year, we have moved into their lovely home. The move has been a blessing for both parties. We pay the same amount in rent, but now Crystal has a dryer and Abby has a crib! Please note our new address:

Prol. Alamos 55 C-102
Col. Santiago Occipaco
Naucalpan, Edo. de Mexico C.P. 53250
MEXICO



MINISTRY SUMMARY:

- ❖ By the grace of God, my Hermeneutics class went very well. It was amazing to see how new a concept it was to the students that we should take the Bible at face value... it means what it says!
- ❖ The Short-Term Mission's trip has come and gone. As always, it was a great blessing to have the team here. This year I was particularly amazed that so many kids came, since all we did was teach God's word. In one week we went through the entire book of Colossians!
- ❖ I was recently named an elder at church. Please pray that God would humble me to lead His flock in a way that honors Him.
- ❖ Luis' absence has left an abyss that one man cannot fill alone. It has been wonderful to see the maturity of the men here who have grabbed the reigns and supplied the needs. This year, my part will be to teach two classes that Luis was teaching (Jim Dowdy will teach the other two) and help out with all the correspondence to TMAI and Grace Church.
- ❖ Though not everything is translated, our Seminary website is now up: www.palabradegracia.org