

Newsletter KELLY & YAIR

AUGUST

SEM (SIERVOS EN MISIONES)

As most of you know, we both went through the program Adventures In Missions (AIM), which is where we met. Our friends, Adam and Jocelyn Bentley, started a similar program called Siervos En Misiones (SEM) here in Toluca, Mexico this month! They have been planning this for a very long time and this month they launched it. Because they don't have a full staff yet, they wanted to start out small for their first year. They are beginning with 2 young adult men, Carlos and Jacob.

Last month we met with them to discuss how we can be involved. We decided to hold a small group at our home every Thursday with Adam and Jocelyn and their students and other young adults. We have hosted this small group the last 3 Thursdays and it's been going very well! Last week, we invited 3 young adults to join us and we had a great time. We start with a Bible study (we are currently studying Proverbs) and prayer and then we spend time fellowshiping and playing games afterwards. It's still a very small group, since it's just getting started, and we are excited to see how God works through this new ministry and how this grows.



This past month, Yair has continued preaching and song-leading on Sundays, but his main focus has been in mentoring and investing in Carlos, one of the SEM students. Carlos is from Mexico City, so although he isn't far from home, he did leave his family and friends to come here and be a part of SEM. Yair knows what that's like, so he knows how important it is to have a friend and someone in your corner. He has decided to be that for Carlos. Yair has spent a lot of time with Carlos this month, going to the gym with him, showing him where the best tacos are, and taking him to coffee to talk and have Bible studies. The two of them together have started putting together a men's Bible study group, which will be starting soon!

The two of us and Yair's family together have also spent a lot of time with Carlos, having game nights with him, going to the movies, and taking him around Toluca to show him all the sights. It's been fun getting to know him and support him in this big new chapter of his life.

Kelly taught her first children's Bible class here and it was an incredible experience and a great success! The class was about the widow and the jars of oil in 2 Kings 4:1-7. The kids memorized the phrase: God takes care of us when we trust and obey! She also went to coffee with a girl who's boyfriend plays soccer with Yair and invited her to the small group. The girl said she would like to come, so if it's God's will, then hopefully she will come one of these weeks and have a good experience and want to keep coming.

One Sunday, we bought tamales for the congregation and everyone stayed after service to eat them together.



PRAYERS APPRECIATED!

To be honest and transparent, this past month has been difficult for us. We had a health situation come up and we had to spend a lot of money on hospital bills this month. It was unexpected and we had to use a lot of our money that was set aside for other expenses. And on top of that, we had to pay for a plane ticket for Kelly to renew her visa. And then we had to pay for our gas system to be completely re-installed because it was against code. So we had a lot of expenses this month and it has hit us hard.

Besides the financial issues, we have had some other big stresses. They cut our gas for two weeks because of the re-installation, which was more frustrating than stressful. Then someone got a hold of both our debit and credit card information and attempted to make a few big purchases so we had to cancel the cards. That has complicated things a lot. And then one night, someone attempted to break into our house to rob us, which has caused us a lot of anxiety. We are now looking for a new place to live that has a guard at the entrance so we can feel safer. A home like that will cost more, which is another concern since we don't have enough monthly support as is.

So, this has been one of the more difficult months. We say all of this because we know you are praying for us and we would greatly appreciate prayers for all of these situations. Prayer is powerful and we could use all the prayers we can get.



We are still in need of more financial support, especially after this past month. If you know anyone who might be interested in supporting our mission, please let us know and we'll send them our support letter with all the information. And continued thanks to everyone who has been faithfully supporting us! We are so incredibly grateful.

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