

The Whiffens in Mexico City
Dec/Jan 2024

From fall festivals and Thanksgiving banquets to Christmas productions and New Year special services, the holiday season is a great time for churches around the world to reach out to communities - a time to share the message of the birth of Christ, and what the holidays truly mean. We often give so much time and energy to our holiday events that when they are over, we find ourselves worn out, and entering the new year with not a whole lot of energy or excitement. **In 1 Corinthians 15:58 Paul says “Therefore my beloved bretheren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, foreasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord”.** I think Paul understood how easy it is to go from a high to a low when it comes to our service to God. Paul is encouraging the Corinthian church to always be active and excited about our service to the Lord. Even when there are no special activities to focus on, our daily walk with God should be more than enough to keep us going.

So far, this new year has been an exciting time for us. Even though in January there were no large special activities or events to focus on, we focused our attention on individuals and families and have been amazed to see God doing some exciting things in our ministry. Right now, our church is in a great place. God has sent us some amazing new families that have helped us build an extremely strong core of the church. We have both men and women who are standing up saying “I want God to use me however He wants to.” **We are so thankful that we have the ability to turn over most of the ministries to people who are both qualified and motivated to see the church grow.** We have men who can stand in the pulpit and preach / teach the Word, and who can wisely disciple newer believers. We have women who are faithful in so many different ministries that allow us to reach out to others in ways that weren't possible before. We have young people who have turned the lives to God, and are willing to serve Him wherever He asks them to, even on the foreign mission fields.



Miguel and Cindy (pictured above who began attending mid-2023) have been an answer to prayer. They came to us last year because they were looking for a church in this area. They told us that they were ready to give up, because they hadn't found doctrinally sound and healthy churches where they could attend close to home and were getting ready to look further from the area, when they came upon our church. They come with many years of experience in working in ministry, and love to volunteer whenever they can. While we were in the states in November, Miguel was one of the men who filled in and taught the messages for me. He also spoke in January and will begin discipling new converts with the basics of the faith. They have a real passion for other people in our church as well, willingly giving to others to meet any needs they see, without anybody even knowing where the help is coming from. Cindy is helping to disciple women and organize activities, and simply encouraging other ladies in the church through her testimony and her conversations. This year we are looking forward to seeing this couple get involved in many other ministries as well.

We covet your prayers as we enter another year of service here in Mexico City (our 24th). Pray for the church that the Lord continues to send us faithful people, and that this year will be something special. Pray for our college kids as they are getting ready to start another semester. Pray that we will see some of these young people dedicate their lives to serving the Lord, and that they can maintain a strong testimony among their friends in very secular surroundings of the university campus. Pray for our health. We are no longer the young couple who came to Mexico all those years ago, yet the Lord has been good to us in so many ways regarding our health. Pray for our family. We are empty nesters, with our kids both grown and facing their own battles and challenges. My dad is battling Parkinson's, and the visit we had with him in November was difficult and unexpected. Pray he is able to be consistent in exercise and nutrition and see some improvement through new medications. Pray for our vehicle to keep plugging along (it's the same Ford Explorer we've had for 17 years now and gets us around). But most of all, pray for our spiritual health. Pray that we will always live 1 Cor. 15:58, and that every day we will be steadfast and abounding in the work of the Lord.

Dec/Jan photo dump, as my kids like to say!



We'd like to thank you for your specific prayers and support. Many of you went above and beyond in November and December, sending extra love offerings that helped make ends meet as we ended a tough financial year.

We also have a very special prayer request that God knows, and we covet your prayers!

Serving our Savior,
Mark and Donna (Is 6:8)

Sending church: Faith Baptist Church Easley, SC Pastor Thomas Fuller
Sending agency: BIML, PO BOX 9 Harrison, TN Director Terry Jones