

MISSION POSSIBLE

Reaching Mexico City for Christ

The Whiffens

June-August 2023

For as long as I can remember, I've enjoyed team sports. I've both watched and played and even "coached" occasionally. Donna says that teamwork among faculty is important for the success of a school. She said she loved staff meetings because she loved that new projects and goals were bounced around the room and discussed before being implemented and that current projects were constantly re-evaluated. My wife and I are a team, as well! We keep each other at check and have that iron-sharpening-iron relationship so important in a marriage. We've often teamed up with our kids (not as much since they have flown the nest) to accomplish a goal for the family. Local churches have staff and volunteers from the congregation who work together for the edification of the local church. We see benefit in teamwork. I like the following definition of a team: *a group of people who perform interdependent tasks to work toward accomplishing a common mission or specific objective.*

Too often, however, foreign missionaries find themselves alone in ministry, without a group of mature believers with whom they can have that "iron-sharpening-iron" relationship, and it often takes years to see that happen. This is why it's important as we minister and witness, to also disciple those who accept Christ so that they can then come alongside us in ministry. We need to work ourselves out of a job.

The "new" church plant we began in 2018 has seen a number of people come and stay or come and go (the pandemic contributing greatly to the exit as people moved looking for work.) Things have begun to stabilize in the past year, and we now have a team of experienced, mature believers to carry out the many tasks that church development requires. Pray for our **new team (picture below)** as we work "interdependently" to accomplish the goal of reaching our corner of Mexico City for Christ! Miguel and Cindy, pictured right, just began attending this summer and will head up several ministries in the fall.



Special financial request: We have come upon hard times between the dollar dropping, prices rising, and medical and construction expenses. To give you an idea of how the US dollar's lower buying power affects us, in one month we had an increase of 582.00 in our regular expenses (housing, utilities) and that has not changed and is not expected to change during the next year. For example, we were paying 619.00 on

average in rent, but we now pay 812.00 on average. We also have tax expenses, some medical bills still pending to pay for Jessi, and a wall that we have not been able to complete. We had to tear it down as it was in danger of falling. We were able build the base but had to postpone putting up the rest. If you can help with any of these expenses, please send any donation marked SPECIAL PROJECT to our mission board at the following address:



Mark Whiffen #1089

BIMI

PO BOX 9

Harrison, TN 37341

When we begin to rely on our own strength or begin to feel defeated, God brings Psalm 127:1 to mind: "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it. Except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." We continue to trust as the Lord continues to build!

Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support,

Mark and Donna Whiffen

Is 6:8



Our children eagerly await each Sunday school lesson, where they are going through a biblical foundations' program from Genesis to Christ.



From Donna: "I was so happy to receive a surprise visit from my friend of 23 years, Elizabeth! She and I formed a close bond the day her husband left her. She showed up at my house one morning at 7am and asked what to do. I simply opened my Bible, and we began reading God's promises. Her husband never returned, but her faith grew, and she is now an encouragement to me each time we meet! I was able to

hold her new grandson, Kai, whose dad was in my Sunday school class when he was 12!”



Jessica, pictured left, got saved in our living room one Friday night after dinner! Pray for her as she continues to grow through discipleship! She is temporarily living in the States (for work) and continues to disciple with Donna online, as well as attending the church of a missionary friend who now pastors in the area.



We welcome Sergio and Monica and family to the congregation. They are both active military, with dad temporarily stationed in another city. Mom faithfully brings the boys to church, who also play instruments in the service!



Continue to pray for our neighbor, Vero. Here she is standing, which is a miracle as she was bedridden for two years. She is here with her friend, Lucy. Pray for their salvation!