

David & Rowene Sheppard's Window on Mexico Summer 2017 News

My how fast the year is progressing, but life in general seems to be flying by at an accelerated pace now. It seems but a few weeks ago and our Grandson Cyrus was born, now he's walking at 10 months old. A few days ago we left Canada on Aug 3 and it literally seems like that was at least a month or two ago! Let me tell you another story as well.

Touching One Generation after another! In 1975 when Rowene and I left for Mexico and Central America, one of the verses the Lord gave us was **Psa. 67:2 LB**, which says, *"Send us around the world with the news of your saving power and your eternal plan for all mankind."* Over the years, **Psa. 126: 5, 6** has encouraged us, too with the promise that *"those who sow in tears shall reap in joy. He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing precious seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again rejoicing bringing his sheaves with him."*

These words were made alive to Rowene and I last Friday again in a new way. In 1995 with the



encouragement of Cam and Irving Gillett, we formed a Bible school program with the Logos Christian University in Jacksonville FL and began working in August-September 1995. Cam was working with a grouping of churches in Monterrey area called the Centers of Faith and their big Bible school there offering a program to help their graduates and pastors get a B.Th. from a recognized N. American University. In the Puebla area he carried on in our school to promote here the same and I then started at

a different level with non-graduates. In **1996** we began to work together, with Cam and Irv and others helping a once a month or every 6 weeks in a Bible school weekend where we would travel to Tehuacan, a city about 1 ½ hours south east of Puebla. We taught Fri night and all day Saturday on a chosen theme. I continued to teach on weekends from **1996-98**. Different servants of the Lord helped me and sometimes I arranged teaching around the arrival of those men of God.

Chapter 20 (20 years later): On July 3 2017, just an hour or so before we were to take the bus to the airport for a 30 day trip to Canada, I received a call from a lady I'd met in Feb or Mar of this year at a breakfast meeting. She'd come up and said "Do you remember me? I was one of your students in Tehuacan many years ago" (about 20 yrs. ago). They'd had to come in 1 ½ hours from their city Acatlan to where I was teaching in Tehuacan. Well, we became reacquainted for a few moments, said goodbye at the end and I never heard of her again till July 3, 2017. There was an urgency in her voice when we talked so I told her the dates of our return to Puebla. The second day after we arrived, she phoned again. We set up an appointment for last Fri morning, Aug 11. **She came with her mom and together they told me a fascinating story of God's working in their lives (John 8:32 and Acts 1:8), of souls being saved and of 3 churches being planted. The 4th one here in Puebla City has about 250 members. I went to their home and met the other family members and it turns out to be a big family of at least 5 living here working together to see the Gospel preached and churches planted. One of the first things the pastor/son said to me was: "I want to thank you for how much you taught my sisters years ago and how it ministered to our lives". It turns out the course I taught was on the Gifts of the Spirit using another great servant of the Lord's book, Gerda Brown (Carismas of God). WOW! Time seemed to stand still and my heart was literally pumping hard (I guess I was pumped! Ha! ha!) as I rejoiced at the goodness of GOD. WHAT WE HAD LEFT CANADA TO DO in 1975 and 1976 WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING, THE FRUIT OF IT WAS BEING REVEALED RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES. How many times will such testimonies come back to us in**



"The world is our classroom.."

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the days ahead? This wasn't the first time that we heard something similar, but this one is an



extraordinary testimony. You who have prayed and given are part of this outreach – sowing the seed for indigenous autonomous churches, preparing workers, praying to the Lord for more workers to be raised up and now it is happening - the tree is full of fruit! Nothing of value happens necessarily overnight but a strong spiritual pine or oak tree becomes the same with time, patience and faith. Here was a whole family of oak trees, discipling and growing saints in the kingdom for the King. Halleluiah! That isn't all

the story— they've had very little Bible school training and want to come to our school here in Sept when we begin. They are going to work hard in the next few weeks to complete a portion of our studies and receive a Diploma for studies that will greatly come from the "use diligence to add to their faith..." and grow in usefulness to the King. Today we found out that they have already finished one section the studies and are finding them very helpful. We will simply be recognizing such ministry accomplishments with a Diploma.

We are planning for that Logos Bible school graduation ceremony on Sept 4 at 6 pm CST, and if they are able to finish on time, these dear folks mentioned could add 4-6 more grads to the package – total of 10+. Glory to God! I asked another Pastor and Logos grad to come and speak so we will be having a great time that night, as well as another student will lead the Praise time and others to come from our Tlaxcala, too. Invitations are already out and more going out this week both for the graduation but also for the activation of the new term so that more students will come and be trained in the things of God. I've even got a soon- to -graduate student as a teacher this trimester too. He's been coming for over 4 years now every Monday night so I felt led to ask him to teach a course, and he said YES!

Another area of ministry the Lord is using is "Live Streaming" via Facebook in our church. This Sunday's service (Aug 20) reportedly touched about 370 people. We recently began the streaming around April 16– just after my surgery. I sat down before this computer this morning and was astounded, giving Thanks to Jesus for all the "likes" and responses we received. WOW! What is God saying and doing? Our hearts, which at times have grown faint from the battle of faith, have been encouraged in these last few days to see His working through this ministry. THANK YOU WHO PRAY FOR US BOTH OCCASIONALLY AND DAILY AND FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT US FINANCIALLY. YOUR PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SACRIFICES ARE SWEET SMELLING GIFTS TO GOD, I'M SURE. PLEASE CONTINUE. Thanks for being "a partner with us" in the ministry here in central Mexico.

Tomorrow we will be working on Rowene's course for Bible school. Over the last 2 years she's written a verse by verse manual on Ephesians which she will teach over the next two trimesters. Vol. One which covers chapters 1-4 will begin in September. Next trimester she will teach chapters 5-6 from Volume Two, which she is still preparing. Bible school 2017-18 must be a threat to the enemy because the course I'm working on (I've taught it before-Divine Healing) has cost me lots of pain – twice - my laptop was hacked the first Sunday we were in Canada. Returning to Puebla it quit again. I'm trusting I'll get most of those files back that were on it for the course, especially a book on Healing that I just translated (as well as many other courses from the past). ***I may have to give out 100% to many students if I don't get the grades back too. (Ha,ha!) (the student records are part of some of the files on that computer).* I also

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lost the mailing program and lists I had of your e-mails. So though I would like to share this A.S.A.P. with you all it may take a few days to get things back up and running on my mailing list.

Here in Mexico, our church was also robbed while we were in Canada (two CPU's, a keyboard piano, 2 guitars, important hard drives, cameras (video y SLR digital), etc.). The saddest, most painful part of this is that all of this things were stolen by someone in the church that we have tried to help in many ways for several years. This is the 3rd time he has stolen from us and other large-hearted people within and outside the church.

Also, a couple of weeks ago, during the prayer meeting in the church of a good pastor friend, 2 armed men entered the prayer and stole the pastor's car. Other churches have also been robbed **so we would appreciate your continued prayers for our protection and the safety of all the pastors and their families in Mexico.**

We stayed in the Vancouver area this trip in order to celebrate Rowene's mom's 90th birthday (May 13) birthday, and to see Michael and Darling and baby Cyrus again. We also used this time for David to recuperate from his back surgery in April. Mom lives in a complex with an indoor pool and gym, which we used almost every day. After riding the stationary bike and taking 7 physiotherapy sessions at an aquatic center nearby, David returned to Mexico much stronger and almost pain-free. He continues to do about 15 exercises to continue to strengthen his muscles and improve his balance. He and Rowene are walking with walking poles, a few blocks around the neighborhood. We plan to buy an exercise bike and not lose the strengthening that has been gained. We are also seeing David's blood sugar at near-normal levels.

We ask that you pray that we might know how to refocus on the areas of ministry that God would have us do in these, perhaps last years in Mexico. Today we celebrate our 46th wedding anniversary and the 28th David turns 69. There may be areas of our ministry that we need to let go in order to be free to focus on other ministries. We feel that much of our time and energy should be re-focused on equipping more pastors and workers in our Bible School. We would also like to travel more again to churches where we have Bible Schools, as well as to other cities and areas where we have ministered in the past.

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial support. Your income tax receiptable giving should be sent to our home church: NORTHSIDE CHURCH, 1140 Lansdowne Drive, Coquitlam, BC V3E 2Y9 Tel: 604-942-7711. Designate it to ourselves or the MEXICO

PROJECT. *(do not write it on the check itself but rather in your letter. Thanks)* **If you feel you would like to join in praying for and supporting financially this ministry, that too would be an answer to prayer. We need more of both of those things.**

David & Rowene's Present Main

Ministries: Bible schools (both directing and teaching in our own school in Puebla and also giving direction to several schools in different cities too), directing the Bi-monthly Magazine Alianza and pastoring Grace and Glory Church in Puebla. Rowene is writing, ministering in Praise & Worship and teaching church ladies and again in our Logos Bible school.

Serving Jesus in Mexico, David and Rowene Sheppard, Puebla, Mexico

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There's just something about AUGUST!: It was Aug-Sept 1967 when my life took a decided turn and I would enroll in Eston Full Gospel Bible School and started in mid to late Sept. That was 50 years ago. On Aug 21, 1971, 46 years ago Rowene and I were married in Evangelistic



Tabernacle in Vancouver BC. 42 years ago this August (1975) Rowene and I were considering quitting our good paying jobs in Vancouver preparatory to leaving Sept 30 for ministry in Latin America and 41 years ago in August God miraculously indicated we were to register in Spanish language school and about

Aug 15 we left in order to arrive in Guadalajara Jal. Mexico for the beginning of classes on Aug 26, 1976. I was 28 years old. We were here then until July 30 1979, when we returned to Canada for almost 8 years of ministry in Pt. Coquitlam BC. Then 30 years ago this Aug (in 1987) we made our way back to Mexico with our two small children (Michael, age 7 and Arlene age 4) and we have been here continuously ministering in and outside of this centrally located city since then. One more important date, I was born in August too! A GREAT MONTH! Praise God for August, right! Amen!

