

Spring Newsletter from David & Rowene Sheppard in Puebla Mexico

Grace and Greetings to all of our supporters and friends in Jesus Wonderful name. We apologize for not writing to you for quite a long time, though we do keep in touch with many of you through Facebook. It seems that life is full of surprises and keeps on accelerating by the day.

As you may recall, we were able to spend a few days in Canada with Michael and Darling and baby Cyrus at his birth in September. Then we returned to enjoy our first Christmas with family in about eleven years. What a joy to be all together again for a couple of weeks. We are also filled with gratitude because Mike and Darling spent a few weeks with us in Puebla in March.



One highlight occurred when Darling, Rowene and Cyrus were room-mates at a Ladies' Retreat we try to attend every year. This year's theme, "Leaving a Heritage", was especially appropriate as Darling and I attended together when she was single, newlywed and now a new young mother.



In our last letter we shared that David was having physiotherapy and doing special exercises for his back. After two months, his back didn't improve, so a few weeks ago, before leaving for Europe on holidays, our doctor re-examined the x-rays and MRI of David's back and saw that because of the 3 bad herniated lumbar discs as well as many spinal bone spurs, surgery was probably indicated. He called in a back specialist that night who, after examining David and the MRI of his back concurred that, as David was very unstable in his walking, sometimes even falling, it was important to operate on his back as soon in possible. Unbelievably, within just over a week, Thursday April 6, David reported to the hospital for surgery and a few hours later came out of surgery able to move his feet back and forth with a freedom he hadn't had for a long time. Saturday afternoon he came home, where he has been convalescing for the past almost 3 weeks.

In his pre-op blood test it was found that his blood sugar was quite high, and rose even higher as a result of the surgery. We are thus adapting to many changes, such as a low glycemic index diet, checking blood glucose levels, coping with pain, and wearing a back brace etc. David jokingly says he feels a bit like the Apostle Paul when he was under house arrest as he hasn't been out of the house for 3 weeks and the doc hasn't yet told him when he can ride in a car. Though it is challenging for him to try to rest and restrict his



activity, his secretary and others have come to the house, and they are taking the time to catch up on administrative duties and planning for ministry that is needed to continue the vision of the different ministries and project them forward in the near future.

During the Holy week there was a major evangelism training offered and then an impulse in evangelism on Thursday, Good Friday and Saturday. David was not able to be there but we thank the Lord that two younger men in the congregation had the vision encouraging others to attend and approx. 10 attended, were

trained, encouraged and went forth forming a good drama and outreach team. They apparently ministered to 200 people and several gave their lives to Jesus, praying for salvation. The same group plus a few more is planning to lead our annual "**FestiKids**" outreach on Apr 29 on Children's Day here in Mexico. We invite children and their parents to come to the church to jump and play on the inflatable toys (sorry, we don't know what they're called in English), eat, get their faces painted and watch skits. After this





there is a brief gospel presentation and an opportunity to accept Christ. Glory to God! **It's a big undertaking but we mustn't stop reaching out to the lost.** David hasn't actually led it but is very much behind the leaders helping everywhere he could during the last 7 or 8 years – but not this year. So again, Glory to Jesus! We're seeing others raised up as potential leaders. **Pray for us this Saturday as we endeavor to put this outreach on and win some souls for Jesus.**

Our live Bible school is on a break for a few months due to several circumstances – my immobility being a big part of the decision. But the work doesn't stop completely because of one person. We will continue this summer with the DVD International School of Ministry courses. Also, the Monday before surgery two of our present students took me aside and **plans were finalized for them to start another ISOM school in their church and they would be the directors.** Another grad who has done at least 3 different ISOM schools was **asking about starting again in his church.** Praise the Lord! ISOM is a great tool that has been used to instruct and graduate more than 200 students, a good number of them in isolated areas or among the poorer groups that can't get to a "seminary" to study. Of course there are many more that took one or more trimesters and were impacted for service in the Kingdom. One of these grads is also now a supervisor for his denomination in several states and wants to see about establishing more schools as the Lord opens the doors. Halleluiah!



Continue to pray for David in this new stage of life. The surgeon came over to the house today (Apr 25) and is pleased with the progress of healing in his body. He has no pain and is off all pain medications. We believe David will soon be vigorous and strong again, walking as much as he needs to, without any difficulty or imbalance. Rowene is editing her next Logos Bible school course in Spanish for the fall with Darling's help correcting. **Pray with us for more workers to be raised up, both in our own church and in the group of Bible school students starting up or returning for another trimester on August 28.**



Our magazine ministry (Revista Alianza) continues to be a blessing to many. **Pray for the finances to come in thru ads for it to continue and to prosper.**

Thank you for participating with us financially and for your prayers. May Our Lord Jesus Christ Bless and Use You Continually. As always, you can send you offerings thru to **Cornerstone Missionary Fellowship, PO Box 1976, Mission, TX 78573.** Your funds will be channeled thru that organization. Please designate it to **David and Rowene Sheppard – Mexico Project.**

Your missionary friends serving God in Puebla Mexico (*about 3-4 million people live there*),
David and Rowene Sheppard

**** You can easily give us a call: 210-587-7979; 001-52-222-262-1755 (with/con Whatsapp y Messenger)**

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