

Volume 18 Number 5 OUR 18TH YEAR OF SERVING GOD'S SERVANTS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2014

## **CENTRAL MEXICO ADVENTURE 2014**

Thank you to all who made my trip to Central Mexico possible and who upheld us in prayer. This whirlwind adventure was certainly ordained of the Lord. My prayer is that we left seeds of the Gospel behind us that will result in eternal fruit and that we also left a trail of encouragement. I say "WE" because YOU were a part of this as well through your prayer and financial gifts. In addition, I will continue to pray that the training will result in fruitful blossoming ministries that will reach others for Christ and challenge and encourage believers.

I connected with at least nine churches and was in four different locations in fourteen days. When I contacted Diane she would ask me, "Where are you going next?" My answer, "I'm not sure." "How are you getting there?" "I'm not sure." "What is your schedule?" "I'm not sure." Trust me, Spanish time is different. "Flexibilidad" was true as never before. Some churches had materials to make puppets, some did not. Some had a puppet theater, although broken, and others had nothing. At one church we had to string a tarp between tent poles to serve as a theater and then of course it rained.

The last leg of the adventure involved getting to Puerto Vallarta. Two churches were involved there. Originally, I was to make the five hour drive with Steve Montgomery, the missionary with whom I was serving. That did not work out. His daughter and son-in-law then offered to take me. That did not work out. Then a taxi cab driver was going to take me. That was not going to work either. Then I was told I'd be put on a bus. I had also been warned that the last stretch of two lane road to Puerto Vallarta could be a challenge. I envisioned a crowded ride in a hot open bus with my all my luggage at the bottom of some mountain pass. Then I was told that a family was going to take me. As it turned out, the taxi driver along with his wife and three children took me. They had a small car and my luggage barely fit. The five hour drive took seven hours. The traffic coming at us at one point was backed up at least four miles at a complete stop. When we finally got to the point where we saw the cause of the delay we realized it was caused by road construction.

I have been asked to consider a return trip to Central Mexico. If that happens, I will stay in one location as part of a seminar. Churches will come to the workshop instead of me traveling to them.





mentioned that there were AWANA clubs in the area and a local AWANA missionary.

We were headed to COSTCO after the Sunday morning service. A number of the church folks meet there every Sunday because it is air conditioned and the food is cheap (plus free samples just like here). Ricardo asked in broken English, what I thought was, "Would you like to see AWANA?" I assumed he was backing up the vehicle for me to meet the area AWANA missionary. I was wrong. There was a bit was lost in communication. We were backing up so I could see an "iguana." They are not usually seen in public areas. It did take me a few seconds to connect what was happening. It was "iguana," not "AWANA." The iguana smiled for me. Actually, it was more like a hiss, warning me to stay away. I did.



## Thoughts from Diane . . . I Called, but You Didn't Listen





There are many themes in the Old Testament, but one has resonated with me this year as I'm reading through the Bible chronologically. God is a merciful God and has patience before He brings judgment.

Our enemy has an arsenal of weapons, ready to attack anyone who listens to God's call. Just as the Israelites were warned about the dangers of straying from the Law that God had given them, we as New Testament believers have been presented the challenge of the dangers of Satan's traps as well.

One of the best times of my high school years was singing in the select Choir. The opportunity was a gift from God. I was poor, didn't have nice clothes or an outgoing personality. The director was a nice man that may not have even realized what a huge part he played in finding something about school I loved. I'll never forget singing the Hallelujah Chorus (this was at a time when it could be performed in public school). I was in a group of people that shared the same love that I did. I got such an emotional high when I was singing with these people. Then the enemy of my soul started creeping in. I started to listen to the other's singing. Then I started to compare voices. Pride became a big part of my thinking process. Over the years I've loved singing. I loved learning how to harmonize. I have many good memories of singing in groups in church. I can't tell you how I've had to fight pride. The battle that has gone on in my mind has not been easy and I knew that it was sinful.

In Jeremiah 7 God spoke through his prophet to Israel. Once again He told them "Amend your ways and your deeds and I will let you dwell in this place." He covered all of their sinful actions. I hope you'll take the time to read this chapter. I know that over and over again I felt the sting of God's just Words in my own life. Some say "well that's the Old Testament." God also said that He never changes. Yes, we live in a time of grace not the law, but the sinful actions that brought God's horrible judgment, on the Israelites involves the same God who will judge the church. We need to examine our lives in the light of who God is. We, as the church, need to know who God is; there is no better way than to read His Words. Those Words will focus the heart of the true believer on God's vision of life, not a selfish vision. Our opinions, words, deeds and decisions should not be colored by the enemy but by God. Jeremiah 7:13 says this, "... now, because you have done all these things, declares the Lord and when I spoke to you persistently you did not listen and when I called you, you did not answer ..." there was judgment. There will be judgment again. My prayer for you is that God will bring a strong desire to know Him through His Word, to listen and to answer Him.

Steadfast, Immovable, Always abounding in the Word of Truth, I Corinthians 15:58, Diane

Your Opportunity to Pray with Us
☐ Praise—Diane has gone several months with no symptoms of pneumonia. As the school year starts and she is back
on a school bus, pray with us that she will remain free of infection.
Please keep our son, G2, in prayer. He is facing two potential surgeries and is in constant pain as a result of blood
clotting complications and infections.
Pray with us for about ten new ESM partners. We have had several donors contact us recently who have had their
financial situation change substantially and they are no longer able to support ESM.
Two new churches officially partnering with us would be an added encouragement.
Pray with us for wisdom in planning for 2015 and for potential new board members.
Pray that we will continue to be effective in ministry and meet needs of those we

Our Continuing Mission Is To ...

"Serve God's Servants"

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POTENTIAL NEED - A NEW PRINTER. I AM WORKING ON KEEPING OUR CURRENT PRINTER FUNCTIONING. WE'VE BEEN HAVING SOME RECENT CHALLENGES. I WILL KEEP YOU POSTED ON THE POSSIBLE NEED.

## Where We've Been, What We've Been Up to & Where We're Headed Next...

July 6-Valley Bible Church, Kooskai, ID

July 15-30—Mission Trip to Central Mexico

August 1—Valley Bible Church / VBS / Spokane Valley, WA

August 18—Leadership Meeting, Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA

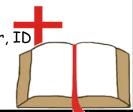
August 23—ESM Board Meeting

August 26, 27—Christian Heritage School Retreat, Riverview Bible Camp

August 29 - September 1 — Family Camp @ ALACCA Bible Conference Center, Harpster, ID

September 14—Elk Community Church, Elk, WA / Mission's Conference

September 15—Leadership Meeting, Mending Fences Fellowship, Spokane, WA



## We Are Available for Pulpit Supply, Even on Short Notice.

Does your church need a speaker for a special outreach program, AWANA or Kid's Clubs, Sunday School, teen or kid's camps, family camp or other special events? Contact us by phone or e-mail. We are here to serve.

Executive Director: Rev. George Hippe

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