

New Year=New Open Doors!

Pray for the Whiffens in Mexico City

Dec/Jan/Feb 2017

Dear praying friends,

We are excited to share with you some of the new doors God has opened for us since our last update!

College campus outreach: We now have an open door on the campus across the street from our home! Beginning next week, we will be on campus on a regular basis to speak in different English classes for question/answer sessions. This always opens a door for us to witness freely as people ask us what we do-why we're in Mexico, etc. We aren't allowed to hold Bible studies on campus nor to pass out material, but we are going to be able to invite people to our English conversation classes where they will hear God's Word! Please pray that this opportunity remains open!

We are continuing, of course, with our English Bible studies and have seen great growth from them! There is never a shortage of people who want to learn English, of course, but we have learned that as we pray for the Holy Spirit to guide us to the right people, there is also never a shortage of people who need Christ! God has helped us learn how to combine English studies with Bible studies to reach

otherwise unreachable people here in Mexico City! We have classes on Saturday mornings and an English-speaking Sunday School class on Sunday mornings in addition to our regular Spanish-speaking services.

We are also very happy to have a mother-daughter team (Esther and Cici, pictured below) teaching for the children's ministry. They began in January and we are very happy to have them. Their help has freed Donna up to teach the young teen girls' class (many of these students were in her children's class). The daughter was in our youth group 17 years ago in our first church here in Mexico City!

Speaking of 17...this past week we celebrated 17 years in Mexico City! We can't believe how fast the years have gone and how much there is still left to do. The city has changed tremendously since we first arrived, but the need is the same! We appreciate your prayers as there has been some anti-American sentiment going around-nothing that has hindered our ministry in any way nor had a negative impact on our friendships-but we have had to be very sensitive and patient with people (especially new people.) Pray that God would help us answer their questions graciously and that they would continue to be open to the Gospel!

On a personal note, we were without a car for nine weeks as the transmission needed more repair. We are very glad to have "Bessie" back! Josh has begun college online this semester, so we have him

around a little bit longer before he transfers his credits in August and leaves the nest! Jessi will turn 17 in March-where have the years gone? She still has a tender heart for which we're very thankful! We have all had some health issues that made January a rough month, but we're very glad to be feeling better. Pray for Donna as she still has to get a hernia surgery soon-please pray for smooth surgery and quick recovery! Josh had a reaction to some medicine and ended up with nosebleeds and blood in his urine. They are going to run some tests to make sure that no severe damage was done-we appreciate your prayers for him!

Please forgive our delay in getting this prayer letter out. When we are sick we tend to slow down in our correspondence, but we are very grateful for your prayers and support! Thank you, also, for the extra Christmas offerings that helped take care of our car repair!

Please continue to pray for Mexico City! I imagine there are many Mexican restaurants in your area-perhaps each time you pass one you could remember us in prayer? Or each time immigration is mentioned in the news you could use that moment to remember the millions of people living in this city who need Christ and to lift them up in prayer, also? Perhaps there are Spanish-speaking people living in your area? Most Christian bookstores sell Spanish tracts. You don't need to speak Spanish to hand someone a tract and a smile and to pray for that person!

Remembering that "the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous

man availeth much!" James 5:16b

In Christ,

Mark, Donna, Josh and Jessi Whiffen

Is 6:8



"Matrimonios": Each week we meet with several couples to study about what God's Word says about having a Christ-centered marriage. We intended this ministry as an outreach and have been very encouraged with the response! We began with couples from church and have been joined, now, by couples from the neighborhood. We understand how severely Satan attacks families! Pray with us as we work to bring more families to Christ and as we pray that God will strengthen the homes in our area! We know of many families who are struggling with addictions and divorce and need to know that they, too, can have the HOPE that is in us!

College/Career: Each week we have a group of "twenty-somethings" who come together to learn and fellowship. Pray for these kids as they are either studying, just graduating, working, or looking for work in a very tough economy. We have been working through Romans 12-learning how to be "living sacrifices" and how to be "transformed by the renewing of [our] minds." Pray for us as we evangelize and disciple these precious young people!

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