

December 2011

“Mítins”: Other than my conference trip to the state of Tamaulipas, October was business as usual: teaching the book of Revelation and how to interpret biblical narratives, meeting with young pastors to discuss *The Cost of Discipleship*, and mentoring students regarding essays they need to finish, among other things. And the first half of November was full of “mítins” (meetings): we hosted the Mexico missionaries in our home for the annual Field Council Nov 2-6, and I attended an annual meeting between our mission and the Reformed Presbyterian Church in the state of Chiapas Nov 7-9.

20 years: Blanca and I left Mexico City Nov 13-24 to celebrate our 20th wedding anniversary. I am especially thankful that Blanca has put up with me for so long! Where we went is our little secret, but we can tell you that we both had a great time.

Daniel’s upcoming surgery: Our son Daniel has been struggling with headaches and dizziness since the semester started. We have had to pick him up early from school many times. As I write this we are working on getting approval and a surgery date for his deviated septum, which his doctor is confident will relieve his symptoms. Please pray for Daniel.

Our saleswoman: our daughter Alexandra has caught a different kind of bug: she has been making different things to sell. She recently sold two scarves she knit to her teachers, and sold strawberry Santas and other goodies to friends at church recently! Pray that she will be successful enough to support us in our old age...

Plans: we have some things cooking for early 2012: I will be attending the *Timothy Leadership Training* at Hope Church in Houston Jan 16-20 (and preaching there the 15th); Blanca plans to begin a Saturday morning children’s club at church; and I hope to soon have both my Spanish and my English online materials gathered into one file each language.

Giving: We thank you all for your prayers, friendship, support and correspondence. If you would like to give a special year end gift toward our support or toward the seminary library project, the snail mail version should have a card enclosed. For those reading online, go to crwm.org/gifford for a donation link. See also our ‘Get involved’ section at giffmex.org for other ideas to participate in our ministry.

Merry Christmas: Christmas will be a stay-at-home, low-key event for us this year, and with a touch of homesickness and nostalgia, because we love you all! We wish you all a contemplative and refreshing Christmas this year, in which Christ is incarnated in your lives. Blessings! *Dave and Blanca, Daniel and Alexandra*



Dave and Blanca Gifford

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Ministry objectives:

1. Teach at / develop the Reformed Theological Seminary of Mexico
2. Give conferences on various topics across Mexico to Reformed Presbyterian (RPC) churches
3. Assist local churches in Mexico City and host Service and Learning teams from Christian Reformed churches
4. Develop free Spanish resources on the web at giffmex.org