

Among the Coconuts and Pumpkins

June 2006

Serving in Mexico City with:



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Memories of a work team

What a great time we had recently! In late March / early April we received a work team made up of new friends from Cascade Fellowship CRC, and two friends from our home church, Ridgewood CRC. We showed them a great time, taking them to the pyramids, a folklore show, the Xochimilco gondola boats, the historic center of Mexico City, the Coyoacan plaza, and other places. We fed them good Mexican food.

Then we put them to work! And how they worked. Half of the team went with LAM missionary Paul Johnson to work with children at an orphanage on the western edge of the city. The other half of the team went with me to do construction at the Getsemani church on the southern edge of the city.

This was my first time helping organize a work team, but any fear I had was short-lived: the team was wonderful! They had a great attitude, worked hard, and did their best to learn Spanish and make friends here. My favorite moment: Peter: "Dave, how do you say 'tools' in English?"
Dave: "Tools."

Eagerness for another work team

In mid-June another work team arrives, with more friends from Ridgewood CRC. They will be doing construction on a mission on the eastern edge of the city, about an hour or more from our home here in the center of things.

This work site will require a bit

Spanish Stumpers

Electric Coconut Burners

Driving home from seminary one day, I saw a sign on the wall of an auto supply store announcing in Spanish, "Electric coconut burners for sale!" I racked my brain trying to figure out what THOSE might be. What do you think an electric coconut burner is? Answer in the box below.

Limousines and Pumpkins

On the way out of town one day, I drove by a sign saying "We rent out limousines and pumpkins." Another stumper. Why such a strange combination? Guess before you check the answer below!

Answers:

Electric Coconut Burner: A "quemacoco eléctrico" is an electric car sunroof. Coco means coconut, but is also slang for the human head. And a sunroof gives our heads sunburns when we use it.

Limousines and pumpkins: In addition to renting out limousines, the business in question rents out carriages like Cinderella's, which, as you remember, came from a pumpkin.

more effort to organize, due to various factors: the remote location, the small pool of church members to draw from to help with construction, and the fact that the work site has no running water or kitchen facilities! Please pray that the team's time here will be productive, enjoyable and spiritually enriching.

Prayer request

For years Blanca has struggled with difficulty sleeping. Lately her sleeplessness has become worse. Not helping things is the fact that Daniel and Alexandra have to be at school by 7:30am, and the six-mile round-trip to their schools takes over an hour. Blanca is just as eager as Daniel and Alexandra for school to be over and vacations to begin!

Please pray for Blanca. She has been checked by doctors in Michigan and here, and has tried various remedies to no avail. We would really like to see her get the sleep she needs. We are trusting that the Lord will answer your prayers and ours.

Thank you to all of you who support us with your prayers, financial gifts and words of encouragement. God bless you all richly. In Christ,

*Dave, Blanca,
Daniel & Alexandra*