

June 2011

*Dear family, friends and supporters,
Our 'Twitter' style prayer letters are becoming an annual tradition, since people seem to like them. Here, then, are a few 'tweets' for you as you pray for us:*

Blanca is now officially done with all of her breast cancer follow up treatments. We are grateful to the Lord. However, there are some spots on her lungs, one 6mm wide, that will need monitoring in three months. Thanks to everyone who has prayed for Blanca through her surgery, radiation and Herceptin treatments since December 2009.

The Giffords ask for prayer for our flight home to Mexico City on June 19.

Daniel and Alexandra are not counting the days to go home. They are counting the hours!

Dave is eager to continue work on his mural made of plastic pop bottle caps at the Jesus the Savior church.

The Reformed Theological Seminary of Mexico is looking forward to the library books that we will be able to purchase as money comes in for our \$5,000 Seminary Library Book Project. You can contribute to this project with a check to World Missions, using fund code 80-570-6800-010-00.

Dave was diagnosed with type 2 diabetes since our last letter. Praise the Lord he has been able to lower his blood sugar significantly with diet and exercise.

Rev. Jon DeBruyn from Prayer Missions International is organizing a prayer-focused Service and Learning Team to visit us and our ministries in Mexico City, August 16-23. We really want to see this happen. See prayermissions.org for more details.

Blanca continues to coordinate the visa renewals for Christian Reformed World Mission's Mexico field. This is a challenging task, so please pray for patience!

(over)



Dave and Blanca Gifford

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World Missions**

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Ministry objectives:

1. Teach at / develop the Reformed Theological Seminary of Mexico, and develop free Spanish resources on the web
2. Give conferences on various topics across Mexico to Reformed Presbyterian (RPC) churches
3. Network the RPC by maintaining its website and its pastor's directory
4. Assist local churches in Mexico City and host Service and Learning teams from Christian Reformed churches

(Twitter letter June 2011, continued)

Dave and Blanca report that our monthly support is still a few thousand dollars short of our minimum goal of \$72,165 for 2010-11. Any donations that the mission receives by the end of June (the close of the mission's fiscal year) will help us get closer to reaching this target, which represents only 60% of the cost of funding our ministry in Mexico City. Donors, please specify "For the Giffords' support" on your check.

Daniel is finishing Michigan driver's training this week. Pray for him as he learns how to drive in Mexico City, which is quite different!

The Gifford family is disappointed that so many people we met on home service are afraid of Mexico. We have worked hard to emphasize that we have not been affected by the violence along the border. We feel quite safe in Mexico City, and feel no qualms about inviting Service and Learning Teams here.



Odón Paredes Camacho and **Jorge Antonio Sánchez Cruz** will be meeting with Dave on June 24 to begin mentoring again. Odón is the pastor of Gethsemani Church in Xochimilco,

and Jorge is a lay pastor at Jesus the Savior church who hopes to get ordained this summer. Please pray for Jorge's examination by his presbytery in July.

Please pray for us to find a good car to purchase in Mexico City.

Dave will spend his summer scheduling conferences, prepping for seminary classes, preaching, and considering an invitation to teach a course at another nearby seminary. Please pray for Dave's summer activities.

Daniel and Alexandra need special documents to ensure that their grades from this school year, especially this semester in Michigan, are accepted by their school in Mexico. This was a nightmare after our 2008 home service. Please pray this will go much more smoothly this time.

Well, we hope you liked these 'tweets' at the end of our home service. We will miss all of the friends, family members and supporters we visited on home service. Because of the large number of visits we need to do, including trips to Iowa, Houston and Florida, we got only an hour or two to spend with the majority of you. Please know we really appreciate your friendship and all the prayers you lift up on our behalf. We also thank those of you who have sent in support gifts or are currently supporting us on a regular basis.

May God bless all of you, and may God help us to be faithful to him and to you, by serving the Lord faithfully, thoughtfully, joyfully and energetically during our upcoming third term in Mexico.