

November 2011

Dear friends,

Our God is so good, and we have so much to be thankful for. Over the past weeks I have once again been reminded of the mercy and love of our Lord for us. As Paul states so clearly in the second chapter of Ephesians *“because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved...and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast.”*

I want to bring you quickly up to date on what is happening with the work in Cd. Valles, Mexico, and to encourage you in your prayers for us. God has been doing good, and exciting things. One of the most exciting things for me is to see the Training Center begin to take shape at the 6.5 hectare landsite. Our days at the moment are long, hard, and backbreaking as we are attempting to get on top of the weeds and sugarcane spittlebug plague. But with the sweat is the sweet friendship that we are experiencing as we are working together, side by side.

Today as I was laboring pulling weeds and sweating in the field beside other brothers I was reminded of the book of Nehemiah – specifically where they were building the wall - laying stones with one hand and holding a sword in the other. Sometimes that is how God’s work must be done. It may not always fit the mold of how we expect “ministry” to look. But who ever said that God can be contained inside a box?

The amazing thing is to see how God is beginning to plant a vision for the discipleship training farm into people’s hearts – and more specifically – into the hearts of those who one would not have necessarily thought to be the most likely candidates. Others, who you thought would most likely get excited, do not seem to catch the fire in their bones.

If you are not sure what the discipleship training farm is that I am referring to, please take a look at the blog site at www.stevenfrey.ca. This will give you an update on the development that is taking place at the ministry landsite.

Please pray with us for rain – physical rain. Although we pray for a continual and fresh outpouring of the spiritual rain of God’s Holy Spirit in our lives, we are in desperate need for physical rains now before our “wet season” actually ends. This has been an extremely dry year, and I am beginning to better understand the heart cry of so many who plead with God for rain to soften the hardened, sun-cracked soil. If we don’t get rain soon we will get almost none until next June.

We are ready now for someone to come and help us develop the training farm. Although we will be raising sugarcane, this person must be someone who knows agriculture and farming but does not necessarily need to know how to raise sugarcane. Rather, we need someone who loves the Lord, loves the soil, and loves to teach others. It could be a single person or a married couple, and although some knowledge of Spanish would be extremely helpful, it would not be mandatory as long as they have a heart to serve and to teach others. We have housing that would be available for this person(s), plenty of work, and a big vision. If you feel God stirring in your heart and have wondered how God was going to use the practical “shepherd’s staff” of agriculture that he has placed into your hands, then please email me directly at steven@vitwministries.com. Or, you can call me at (702) 516-1478. I love to see how God uses people who are willing to serve him.

We are also in desperate need for several small houses to be built on the farm site as soon as possible. I would love to see several churches get together and plan to come down as a joint venture to build. What we need is very basic – a small house for the farm manager/discipleship center leader and his family. Further, we need either two small, very basic houses for the discipleship students/trainees, or a small motel-style dorm. With this we could begin to have students living and being mentored at the training center. Until we have some type of housing it is almost impossible to begin the actual discipleship school.

We desperately need finances to get us through this first steep uphill climb until the harvest in 2013. Of course, there will always be the continual need for funds. But with our first sugarcane harvest some of the burden for support for the school will be eased as the farm begins to approach the dream for becoming self-financing.

Finally, let me make a personal plea to you. I have been trying to communicate almost exclusively now through the blog site on our ministry web page. I try to post there at least every couple of weeks if possible. There are some very practical reasons for this, such as the ease of placing pictures in the letter, being able to be less formal, and the pure simplicity of posting. There is also a very practical financial reason to do so. Every time that I mail out a hard-copy letter I need to get someone in both Canada and the United States to make photocopies, stuff envelopes, and post the letters. Each mailing costs a minimum of a couple hundred dollars – money which could be used for other purposes than buying stamps and paying for photocopying. I know that there are some people who do not have computers, or who may not feel comfortable using them. However, there are few people any more who do not have some sort of access – a child, a grandchild, a niece or nephew, or a neighbor who could retrieve a letter from their computer for them. So my plea is simple – please utilize the website and the ministry blog to keep up to date with what is happening with the ministry. The address is: www.vitwministries.com, or simply www.stevenfrey.ca, either will take you to the ministry site. Also, for those of you who have not yet done so – please click onto the tab at the top of the blog which says “*Subscribe to VitW Ministries Blog by Email*” and follow the signup instructions. By doing this you will get an email sent to you every time a new blog is posted. In this way you will always be kept up to date with the ministry and never miss a letter.

I will end the letter with the same praise as I began it – “our God is so very good.” It is so easy to get bogged down when we are physically tired or feel discouraged, or “under the gun.” At the moment there seems to be no end to the battle against weeds or sugarcane spittlebugs. We so very desperately need rain – soon. I have no idea how we will be able to build the housing that is so extremely necessary in order to begin the ministry training school. We so desperately need to be able to bring the donated tractor here to Cd. Valles from Kansas where it is presently waiting for us. I continue to pray for someone with an agricultural background to feel God’s tug on their heart to come to Mexico to work with us and train us. We are desperately in need of finances to continue the work. But God is still on his throne, and he is still good. As Habakkuk stated, “*The LORD is in his holy temple; let all the earth be silent before him.*”

Blessings,

Steven and Theresa