

Hola from Guaymas

I'm happy to be home but I have to say that the trip to Canada this summer was full of good things! Lots of opportunities to share what God is doing here, inspiring visits, new activities, meeting the newest family members & kindness over & over again! And now I'm into a new season of loving my Mexican community.

Weather

Well, we made it through storm season! In Sept & Oct we had a couple doozies! Which means the dry desert hills are all green! The heavy rain effects also brought the potential for my roof to be re-waterproofed & our street to be repaved. Yay!

In the News

- In my experience the 4 lane divided highway from the border makes for a quick easy, generally safe trip to Guaymas and beyond. But lately we have had a serious bus roll-over, a washout in the rain & protest blockades that can last for hours!
- My trip down in Sept, I came upon what I learned was the Pilgrimage to Magdalena with apparently "thousands of people, traveling up to 120 miles along the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail to reach Magdalena de Kino in Sonora, to celebrate the Fiesta de San Francisco Javier." Hot day for such a walk. & yes, lots of people!

Little Things that Count (Or not so little things)

- Thanks to everyone who treated me with such kindness while I was in Canada. Especially Ruth & Audrey who each hosted a long-term house guest!
- The trip was too quick through the Rockies but I never tire of the beauty of God's creation! On that note, GPS took me on a new route through Nevada – oh so nice to avoid the cities & enjoy nature!
- I love when God blesses me with unplanned things like a surprise visit with cousins I haven't seen for 30 years, a ride on the combine & car races!

On My Calendar

What's been Happening?

- It's good to be home. In the last 2 months I've had opportunities to connect with many of those dear to me here in Mexico – the ladies groups here in Guaymas, the English group in San Carlos, neighbors, our prison girls & street church friends.
- Street church continued while I was away & the number of attendees is again starting to increase, and the return of volunteers too!. It feels right to spend Saturday sharing Jesus at the park & was fun to gift our men with ball caps.
- While I was away my new ministry partner in the prison, Astrid, kept things going. A few ladies were released & we again have new faces at our study time.
- Thanks to donations of journals, pens, chocolates & funds we were able to do a Thanksgiving themed event in the prison – complete with games, gift bags - & ham, pancakes & maple syrup – and thanking God together around the table!
- Thanks to the Missions committees & supporters in Canada who did so much to help me share what God is doing here in Mexico. The presentation times and small group visits encouraged me so much!

Upcoming:

- Christmas activities are being planned – kids posadas & ladies events with Michelle and at Belen Casa de Pan, a tea with the international church, gift bags, hot chocolate & cookies at the prison – and some smaller gatherings.
- We are already preparing for the enthusiastically requested January Blues party at the prison, which may be bigger than expected with 20 new ladies being transferred in this week.
- We have finished our fall study on prayer with the English group & are preparing for the next study starting in January. "The Amazing Life of Jesus Christ."
- The weekly things seem routine but consistency & caring are a big part of these ministries. We trust good things God has in store for those we see each week.



...but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said, "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people."
Luke 2:10



Financial support can be sent to

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Prison Events

Because of generous donations to this ministry, we are able to host 2 or 3 events each year at the prison. These events include a game (an essential at Mexican events), food, a short devotional, prizes, gifts – and maybe a craft or piñata.

It's about fun & kindness & camaraderie. It's about including everyone, not just the girls who come to the Bible study – something Jesus would do.

My prayer in October, as always, was that God would use this time to speak love to those who don't show interest in spiritual things. This time the Thanksgiving devotional asked "To whom do we give thanks?" – to God, who is good all the time even in difficult circumstances. As we sat at the table chatting Giselle who had just arrived there, wanted to know more about God. ****God doesn't waste anything. He can whisper "Come to Me" in the silence, shout it out loud in the fun & games or offer it as a solution in a time of confusion. May we be instruments that encourage others to drawn near to God.**

Giving Tuesday

The givingtuesday.com website says "Let's transform the world through radical generosity... A day that encourages people to do good."

As a grateful recipient of both radical generosity & small acts of kindness, I can tell you that **doing good doesn't have to be radical to have an impact.** And while a special giving day may be a good reminder, doing good needs to be an every day thing! So let me encourage you (& me) to make a habit of giving – your time, your care, your finances – in your community, to missions, to a stranger.

****If you want to "transform the world" – may I suggest we pray, share Jesus, love others & watch what God does!**

Neighbors

Now that it's getting cooler, we aren't all hold up in the air conditioning & I actually see my neighbors! It also means that Britany comes to visit more often. I am blessed with good neighbors who look out for each other, rarely have late parties & smile & wave even if there's no time to talk! Keka & Alex are like family & by extension Magda & the kids. I love that the kids next door are no longer scared to knock on my door when the ball goes in my yard & that Keka's boys still ask me to print their homework. Then there's my landlords who included me in their one-year old's birthday party & always stop to visit when they collect the rent. I'm so blessed!

30 Years

In 1997 I came to Mexico for the first time. I came with a short term mission team from our church to see how we in Surrey could be involved with this new church, Agua Viva in northern Mexico. As soon as my feet hit Mexican ground, I felt like I belonged here. I came back for a year, then a few more times & finally, 13 years later came back to stay. Before that trip I had no interest in Mexico – I wanted to go to Africa. But God sent me to a place & people He had already put in my heart. Last month I went to Hermosillo to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Arbol De Vida/Agua Viva. Looking back, we marvel at God's faithfulness in the life of AV in the hard times and the good times. Growing from a couple families meeting in a living room to a group of believers who have a church building built with love and continue to reach their community for the Lord. And me? God has been faithful in my life on this Mexican journey, a journey that started long before I joined MGF.

Merry Christmas

We have started the season. A ladies' event with a Christmas craft & Britany has been here to bake & decorate my house. At the prison - hot chocolate, cookies & the advent candles. And more activities to come.

I love the fun, lights, time with loved ones but I'm thankful for the gift given for all of us -- Jesus – Emanuel, God with us.

Joy to you this Christmas!

♥ *Heather*

Donation/Support News

If you would like to support this ministry with a monthly or one-time gift, check out the Canadian or US website for the different ways to donate through **Missionary Gospel Fellowship**.

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Photos: P1 MGF friends Marta & Luisa • SC sunset • P2 dinner with long time prayer sisters • 4 generations • ladies event • 30 year celebration at AV • Prison thanksgiving fiesta • Street Church