

Hola from Guaymas

Summer, for many, is a time to take a break from school, from weekly activities. Up north, summer brings movement. Everyone is out & about, parks, BBQs, camping, taking in every ray of sunshine they can. Here in Sonora, we are more drawn to any place that has air conditioning.

Weather

Yep, it's hot and getting hotter. It will eventually be hot enough that we all complain about the heat & the Mexicans wonder why I'm still here, as most anyone who can go someplace cooler, does.

In the News

- One year. That's how long to expect road construction delays as they put in another overpass in Hermosillo near Costco – in between the oncology clinic & Rosa's house. It changes my route & my "need" to go to Costco & the pastry shop. But nothing like detours to learn more of the city.

Little Things that Count (Or not so little things)

- My oncologists visits have always been a blessing; everyone has been so kind. But on one visit recently I found myself wanting to work there as I watched the doctor, receptionist & 3 others chatting & laughing & just enjoying each other's company.
- On that note, it's been 4 years since cancer surgery & the doctor is still saying "felicidades" (congratulations). I realize that many others don't get to hear that word so thank you, Lord!
- One of the fabric/craft stores in Hermosillo had a fire, closing the store. Eventually they took to the dump merchandise they deemed as unsellable. Enter my seamstress friend Rosa & her friend who followed up on a tip, went to check it out & Rosa came home with lace, zippers & thousands of buttons. No room for pride when free supplies are at stake. Time to think of a button craft!

On My Calendar

What's been Happening?

- The attendance at **Street Church** grew significantly in the winter but seems to have leveled off as we approach the hot months. I'm so thankful for each person who cooks for this ministry – those who regularly serve & those who have volunteered to send a meal. Thank you!
- **Prison Time** We celebrated Mother's Day & my birthday with some of my favorite things – brownies, a craft, party favors. Activities are often well attended & I pray the short devotionals touch hearts of those who don't come to the longer studies.
- An evening out with **Rosa & Ilette** was just so encouraging as they thanked God for successfully transitioning out of prison back into the real world.
- I love helping people see their creative side – even more those who think they aren't creative. Who knew coffee filters & food coloring could make beautiful flowers! That was the discovery the first time with Rosa's group in Hermosillo.
- I've taken a couple guests into the prison with me, which the girls love. Thanks to Rhonda & Dodie for the joy you brought and the activities you did with the girls.

Upcoming:

- In July another craft class with the ladies group in Hermosillo with former CEC student Rosa.
- Astrid may be joining the prison ministry on a regular basis! If this works out, it will be such a blessing to again have a native Spanish speaker with me.
- Street ministry will continue while I'm away, which requires me take an extra turn cooking before I go & setting a cooking schedule, trying not to overwhelm those who will be here.
- Planning for a trip north means renewing my passport, creating a ministry video, scheduling & making sure the car is ready for travel.



For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.
Eph 2:10



Financial support can be sent to

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Photos: P1 Birthday ice cream with Leigh, Wendy & Rob • sorry, don't know what kind of tree • dinner with Ibette & Rosa • coffee filter flowers with Rosa's ladies group • our international group of volunteers at Street Church • Luz was baptized • Britany & Javier years ago • Britany & little Fravid at Javier's Grad•

Leaving Prison

Ibette has had a job since the first week after her release, attends church & is now expecting a baby. Rosa has also adjusted to life outside, reuniting with her family. Her son Moises, who was born while she was in prison & spent almost 3 years with her there has also adjusted, learning that he really has only 1 mom (not the extra "moms" he had inside) & now he can't safely wander around outside by himself!

These 2 ladies have made a successful transition from prison life. Others don't do so well. I asked these girls their opinion as to why that is. Now, I've always thought that it would be hard to suddenly have to be responsible – get a job, take care of children, make meals, clean a whole house, pay bills... In prison you may not have freedom, but you have a roof over your head, a bed, meals provided & most have family who supply needed hygiene products, blankets, fans, clothes. It can become a lifestyle of laziness & entitlement. So, when they leave & suddenly have to work for all this, they don't know what to do. There are opportunities to learn skills & be responsible in the prison, and if one chooses to engage in them, she is more likely to succeed when she leaves.

Different Worship Styles

Teaching crafts at various ladies' events has taught me to adapt to different styles of worship. Michelle's group uses canned music at full volume & the ladies are focused as they sing. Rosa's group wear head coverings, sing from the heart & literally cry out to the Lord. Marisol's ladies group tends to be a bit more conservative, focused on the Word of God, while their kids & youth groups are full of lively yet meaningful music. My girls in the prison, make a joyful noise to the Lord surrounded by walls & those who don't believe. In the end, it's all beautiful to the Lord if it comes from the heart.

Street Church

It really is a joy to serve a meal to our street church people. It's a blessing to work with an international group who are a part of this ministry. It's fun to host groups that creatively present the gospel. It's humbling to watch someone fall to their knees seeking God. And recently it was a privilege to encourage Luz as she chose to be baptized.

Canada Wishlist

- VISITS!
- Corn on the Cob
- Garden fresh tomatoes
- Seasonal fruit
- Rhubarb Crisp
- Boston Pizza
- Hickory Sticks
- Bits & Bites BBQ
- Maple Syrup
- Oilers or Elks merch
- Canada calendar size pictures
- Project items (see ↑)

Kids Grow Up

Those of you who have been on this journey with me for years will remember my friend & Keka's brother, Pancho. Pancho had addiction issues but God used him to teach me about grace. 4+ years ago he disappeared against his will & although we continue not knowing for sure, it's most likely he was killed. His kids have always had special place in my heart & still do. But they're no longer kids – surprise! Seeing Britany isn't as consistent as I would like but I'm thankful that after some bad choices, she is trying to seek God's guidance in her life. She is now a mom of a curly-headed, curious, active toddler. Javier just graduated high school. He did a nursing course alongside his regular schooling and soon will be doing his year of service as a nurse. I feel like a proud aunt & I'm so thankful that they have a Heavenly Father who loves them even more than their dad did!

2025 Project – 50 Devotion bags

- 50 journal-style notebooks (5x7, 6X8)
 - 50 nice, good quality pens
 - 50 full year daily devotional books in **Spanish** (Our Daily Bread, Jesus Calling or one that's impacted you...)
 - 50 book bags to hold this and a Bible
- Thank you for considering helping with these projects for the prison ministry. Contact me if you have questions.

I will be in BC & AB in August & Sept. & would love to see you!

♥ *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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