

December, 2007

We are quickly moving toward early January 2008 when we plan to return to the mission base Roca Blanca in Oaxaca, Mexico. Many of you have been faithful supporters and prayer partners in this mission activity over the past 5 years. Earlier this year we went for 2 months and this year we actually intend to go for 3 and a half months.

The area we serve there is in Oaxaca, said to be the poorest state in Mexico. We spend about half of our time on the Pacific coast, north of Puerto Escondido, seeing patients in a clinic on the base. The rest of the time we travel up into the mountains to provide medical care to the indigenous communities, primarily the Mixteco and Chatino groups. At the base, there is also a Bible School and a music school. The students at the school are from these indigenous populations. They attend classes 4 days a week and also learn a trade (eg mechanic, carpenter, seamstress) so they will be able to support themselves when they return to their villages after Bible school. They go home on weekends to spend time with their families and to begin building churches in their towns.

The needs are greatest in the mountain villages where the poverty has been worsening because of adverse changes in the market for corn, adverse weather conditions, and absence of many of the men (who have gone to the US to work) to plant and care for the corn. This leaves behind fractured families with the attendant problems. During the dry season, which is when we are there, there is often a real scarcity of potable water, and some villages have to walk 1-2 hours to get water and then carry it back. Life is very hard there, and there is understandably a lot of depression and at times, despair. In addition to bringing medical care, sometimes food supplies, and help in improving agricultural production, we also bring the message of hope and love of the Gospel.

We invite you to support this work with your prayers. We will need prayer for safe travel, and especially for uneventful crossing at the border, freedom from illness and injury while we are there, sensitivity to the cultural differences as we minister to physical and spiritual needs, health and safety for our family at home, and growth in our own spiritual lives. In order to have our church's sanction for this work we must have commitment from a group of such prayer partners. If you can support our work financially we will then be able to purchase more medications and supplies for distribution. You may make out your check to Elim Gospel Church with a notation of "Ness -- Roca Blanca" and mail to EGC, 1679 Dalton Rd, Lima, NY 14485. Regardless of whether God is calling you to contribute financially, we really covet your prayer support. Please do let us know if you will stand with us in your prayers day by day. You may see our reports from last year at www.rocablanca.us.

And let us know if you have ways we may pray for you.

God bless,

Dave & Mary Kay Ness

