

*Arise, shine, for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darknes the people; **but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you.***  
*Isaiah 60:1-2*

Dear Family and Friends:

Hola desde la ciudad de Merida! Gracias por sus oraciones al regresar a este pais. (Hello from the city of Merida! Thanks for your prayers as we have moved back to this country.)

It is good to be living back in Mexico. Our trip down this past summer was nothing short of miraculous, in that we were able to bring across a full truck plus 16 ft. trailer without being stopped and searched at the border or elsewhere (avoiding at least a 1- to 2-day delay). The drive down was a harrowing experience, as we had to drive through treacherous mountain highways in order to avoid going through Mexico City. In all of this, we saw God's hand of protection and favor as we re-entered the country.

The arrival into the city of Merida was like coming home. Old and new friends welcomed us back with open arms, and we quickly were able to start a routine. The kids started school in late August (the one they attended before our move up to the U.S. three years ago), and we have started ministering again, although mostly in the city of Merida so far.

One of the difficulties in our adjustment period has been the weather and the kids' health. The extreme heat and high humidity has caused their allergies and asthma to hit them full-force. Of the two, Ellie has been the most affected. We recently had to give her 2 weeks of nebulizer treatments for a severe bout of bronchitis. At one point we thought we would

have to hospitalize her, but once again, the Lord's hand was merciful on our behalf and we were able to avoid this. She is doing much better now, but still has stuffy noses and shortness of breath quite regularly.

In John's case, the issue was intestinal flu that put him out of commission for several days. He is also doing much better now.

Thankfully, Altia and Mark have remained sickness-free since arriving, and have been able to devote themselves to the task at hand (when not caring for sick children).



There has been no shortness of excitement since the time we arrived in late July/early August. We narrowly missed a category 5 hurricane (Dean), and another smaller one two weeks later. The picture above shows destruction in the city of Chetumal, on the border with Belize (about a 4-hour drive from Merida).

Mark was able to go visit the affected areas and provide relief through a partnership with Amextra, a disaster relief agency with offices in Mexico City.

Since arriving, we have been assisting a couple local congregations in the area of teaching, preaching, and leadership development. Altia teaches a class on Wednesday nights, and heads up a prayer meeting on Mondays. We have re-started the Bible school curriculum through video, and have seen a solid response. Mark sometimes leads worship, and is preaching an average of one to two times per month.

Altia just returned from a women's retreat in Campeche, where she was both an attendee and also had participations in liturgical dance. The presence of God was very palpable at the ranch where this took place, and most of the 90 women returned to their homes touched and transformed.

A special privilege of ours since our move back to Mexico has been to assist the church we work with in Acayucan, Veracruz, in putting together a worship team to travel up to the U.S. to minister at various locations. The young people that comprise the team led worship at the annual conference we usually attend in Texas during the month of November. In addition to this, they ministered in a church in Frisco, Texas (just outside Dallas), and then they traveled to Collinsville to play and speak at a youth rally, the local Christian school Mark worked at, and other local church services over the weekend. This is all the more remarkable since none of the team members speak English, but sang all English songs (they practiced very hard). Of course, the use of a translator was necessary for the sermon/message part of the services. Altia flew up to Texas to be with them, and Mark's sister Debbie translated for them while they were in the St. Louis area.

Unfortunately, Mark was unable to go mainly due to a lack of funds, plus other commitments he had during that weekend. Also, in Altia's absence, he took care of the kids, taking them to soccer and table tennis practice.

Table tennis, you say? Yes, table tennis (also known as ping-pong)!

Ellie has taken to the sport like a fish to water, and the availability of a sports complex near our home with Chinese coaches was too much for her to resist. This means, as many of you know, that she is following in her father's footsteps. Mark started playing ping pong when he was 10 – same age as Ellie – and became quite good at it, winning a few national and international tournaments and awards both in Mexico and the U.S. over a 12-year career. Ellie's first tournament will take place in March at the national junior Olympics tournament; she will be competing in the under-11 category.

John, on the other hand, started out in table tennis, and quickly moved on to soccer when he saw other 6-year-olds practicing in a soccer field at the same sports complex where Ellie trains. His team, the "Wildcats" (Linces in Spanish) have yet to win a game, but they are steadily improving (we hope).

As you can see, life is slowly starting to fall into a routine, and this has helped make Merida feel like home to us. Thank you for your many prayers during this transition process. Please write and let us know how you are doing. In case we do not get a letter out before the upcoming holidays, may you have a blessed season.

With Love,

Mark, Altia, Ellie and John

Should you decide to contribute toward the Lord's work in Mexico, you may send donations to:

Mark and Altia Legters  
c/o Debbie Legters  
440 S. Chestnut St.  
Collinsville, IL 62234

Tax deductible donations are received through:

I.D.E.A. Ministries  
4595 Broadmoor Ste. 237  
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