

Feb. 20, 2010,

Happy, joyous Sabbath,

The Lord is on His throne and all is well with our souls.

We left for the Central church this morning at 8:30 ready for an abundant blessing and we were not disappointed. One of the theology students name is John and he has been a blessing to us in many ways. He helped the local Pastor this morning by translating for him. Bob spoke for awhile as pastor Rigo translated then Pastor Rigo translated as Pastor Bill taught in English the weeks Sabbath school lesson. and then the sermon At one point we all turned to the book of Lamentations 3:23 and the Americans sang the well known verse in English and when we finished the Mexicans sang the same verses in Spanish. It was very touching and it went very smoothly, especially as it was just an impromptu moment. The church was absolutely packed, with 175 souls inside and probably 75 standing outside the church listening. Also on one side of the church there were some benches under a tree and people were gathered there along with many children. This weeks lesson as most of you know was on faithfulness and Pastor Bill brought up the fact that people today love themselves more than God and it was agreed upon that this was the case in both our countries. Pastor Rigo spoke of the upcoming meetings that will start Monday night and once again stressed the importance of being on time, "Pronto" being the key word here. He said he would start the program at 7p.m. exactly, with or without them. He went on to say that now he considered himself their friend that they needed to make sure he did not look foolish preaching to an empty church! There is a carnival starting this week on the same line as Mardi Gras and is mixed with a lot of satanic influence. He asked the people today, "do you know what the word carnival means?" They said no, He asked once more, "do you know want to know what the word carnival means?" Again they said yes and he responded with "then come here Monday night and I will tell you!" After services all of the Pastor's and Richard stayed in Jitotol and went to visit families that have shown and interest in learning of Jesus. They visited with 17 families, all very large families. Some consisting of 8 or more. There were several who are longing to be baptized. There was one young couple who were very interested but they are living together and have a baby. The mama is only 15 years old and the policy of this area is that you can not be married until you are at least 16 and then only with parental consent. What a sad predicament they are in. Oh if youngsters only knew the heart ache they are in for when they put the cart before the horse. Jesus can work this out, but it is certainly not what He had in mind for their lives, so He is has to turn too plan B for their life when the first plan would have been the best for everyone involved.

The local church members went out door to door handing out the 1,300 flyers that were printed for the meetings Monday night. They were faithful in their duty and now the way is open for them to gather souls for Christ.

Two of our team members were not able to come with the group and were scheduled to come in early Friday. But you know the saying, about the best laid plans of mice and men. Doctor Mark flew out from Boston and in to

Mexico City and after going through Customs he decided to just close his eyes for a bit while he waited for his flight to Tuxila. Well are you ahead of me already as to what happened? Yep, you guessed it, he fell asleep and missed his flight. Once he realized it he went to the agent and tried to get the next flight out. They were going to charge him another \$500.00 for the ticket. His reply was wonderful, he told him he had to go talk to his supervisor about this first and then walked away. So he talked with the Lord about it and told Him how he had only budgeted for a certain amount for this trip and the rest of his money was to go to some sort of donation down here in Mexico. He then made a covenant with the Lord and said that what ever money you save me on this flight Lord I will put towards a worthy cause here. After praying he then went to a different agent and she put him on the next flight for free. Ah, when you work for the right boss all things come together for good. Now he has an extra \$500.00 to bless others with. Don't you just love hearing those kinds of stories? They just lift you up so much and cheer you on when things don't always go just as you had thought they would. Audrey had flown out from Hartford and had trouble with her tickets right from the get go. Somehow the person checking her in had deleted her tickets instead of verifying she was there and on time. She finally managed to get that cleared up but not before they had told her she had no ticket for Tuxila and that the police would be waiting to arrest her in Mexico City if she couldn't find that Tuxila ticket. She was able to reach Ellen Butler our dear travel agent who got it all sorted out. But even after all of this the flight was delayed and she got into Mexico City late making her miss the connecting flight to Tuxila. Six hours later than planned she was able to meet up with Dr. Mark and Maria our Maranatha worker who came to pick both of them up. You might think that was the last of their woes but no, the car broke down on the way to Jitotol! There is much more to it but she will have to tell you the rest when she gets home. The good thing is they are here safe, happy and laughing about it! And with a story to tell that will last a life time in the adventure categoryJ

This afternoon after lunch many of our group went on a hike with our new friend John the theology student, Others decided to stay back and catch up on some well deserved siesta time. Those that went had a great time. It was divided into 2 parts and those that had enough of the fast paced walk and wanted to turn back could. Others went on to explore caves and such. Well Courtney wasn't too happy about the bats, rats and spiders the size of her hand or the bat that flew through her leg. But she made it through and was still a happy camper even with the bat poop on her shoes! Amy, and Dillon also were with the group, I am sure Amy didn't care for the bat poop but I doubt it would bother Dillon. Jeff was just showing me some pictures of the rats.. I thought it looked rather cute but am certain I wouldn't have thought that had I been there.

Tonight's worship time was heavenly. So much so that when some of the students here heard our singing they had to come down and join us. I think there were about 10 young men who stayed through out our worship time and also gave some beautiful testimonies. One fellow said how much this event has meant to him and how happy he is to have people learn of Jesus. He also

added that even though we might be together here for a short time we will be together for eternity at the 2nd coming of Jesus. Another fellow also said he felt we were in the last days and encouraged us not to forget to pray and not to forget the Father.

One of the local Doctors has been working with us and he stood up and with tears in his eyes. he told how his family is very against the Adventist and how his wife tried so hard to stop him from helping at our clinic. He said God won and he has been so blessed being here with us.

Keep on looking to Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith. He is looking at you with love in His eyes, waiting to bring you with Him to your new forever home. Oh how is He loves you!

And when trials seem hard remember the words that were in the song we sang tonight. Because He lives we can face tomorrow!

Smiles to you my friends,

Jennifer Young, Mission Reporter

"When we have faith in God, we act in faithful ways."