

The Wakefield Newsletter

MARCH, 2008

“And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’” (2 Kings 6:17)

News Updates from Cd. Juárez:

We continue to be greatly encouraged by the recent reports from Communities of Hope (CdeE):

- Last Sunday’s worship attendance was 91.
- The number of cells has increased to 11.
- Over 100 people are meeting each week in our cells.
- New cells are being projected.
- The attendance at Communities in Christ (house church) continues to hold in the mid 30s.
- An encouraging number of people are waiting for baptism at both churches. Baptisms are being planned for Easter Sunday.
- 23 youth from CdeE and 22 from Life Abundant (a sister cell church) met together recently in our facility. The time together was very productive and they are planning more joint meetings. Bony will begin a new cell for older youth (ages 18 to 25) this coming Saturday.
- Some of our leadership team members who have been discouraged in the past are now “on fire” again! But others are facing new struggles.
- Entire new families are coming regularly to the worship services and the financial base of the church has strengthened.
- Sunday afternoon training on how to prepare sermons continues strong with 11 participants counting Rubén and Alicia Zorzoli who lead this effort.
- We do not have information from all of the churches where our team has led training in cell strategy, but several of the churches remain strong and continue to minister through cells, i.e., Bethania, Abundant Life, and Prince of Peace. Pastor Antonio Piste has been leading Koinonia, an older church, to begin multiple cells.

Prayer Requests [Yes, some are repeats because they are of critical importance.]

- Please continue to pray that our team will grow. We need new career, ISC and other two-year appointments. We also need new volunteer partners to help us move into the ever-growing southeast sector of the city.
- Please continue to pray for our dedicated leadership team at Communities of Hope. Discouragement is always at the door for many of our people as life is so difficult. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will give everyone spiritual discernment, peace and a renewed sense of call.
- Upcoming outreach ministry to the community:
 - March 30 – begins a new family life emphasis lasting four weeks. There will be a strong effort to reach out to our community with serious help for families.
 - May 13 – a return by one of the Texas medical teams. Bony is planning to take them out of the church into the world – probably to Paraje San Juan.
- Bony informs us that more pastors are requesting to be trained in cell strategy. Please pray that our team will have many new opportunities to lead training upon our return in June.

We are feeling very upbeat about the news from Cd. Juárez, and want to thank everyone who has had a part in this growth. Whether you share our newsletters with others, pray for us on a regular basis, or have been to minister directly with us, you are part of our team and a significant part of what the Lord is doing in our huge city. Thank you!

Family and Personal News

We thank the Lord for allowing us to spot a great horned owl near our house on three occasions in February. Last month we learned that the favorite prey of this raptor is the skunk! On one occasion while watching the owl, we saw a skunk cross the field nearby and wondered if he was going to be "breakfast" for the owl. The owl seemed to be disinterested this time!

Mom Wakefield will be 86 on Thursday, February 28. We are thankful that we will be here this year to celebrate this milestone with her.

Mark's ministry in Huehuetenango, Guatemala continues to grow. He is developing a phenomenal ministry to youth and continues to grow his team. Catch a two minute video of Mark in Huehue on Youtube at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kSXoWAYyXJo>

Wendy continues to enjoy her job as an interpreter, and we continue to enjoy being close to her and Steve.

Thank you again for your prayers and blessings to all.

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