



## Headed to México

MAY 2015

PRAISE Letter

This particular letter is special for the reason that it marks **one year** that we have been on deputation. We officially started our God-given road of faith-increasing, eye-opening, friendship-making, prayer-partnering deputation on May the 25th, 2014. God has done exceeding abundantly **above** all that we have asked or thought (Eph.3:20)! It is our desire to list on this letter as many of the things that God has done for us as we can remember (within the limits of the capacity of this letter and its readers endurance in reading). "Count your many blessings; name them one by one" – that is what we would like to do. The first few months of deputation were months in which our faith **grew** as we had begun a venture in which we still had car insurance, health insurance, house rent, electric bills, food costs, (not to mention baby diapers), and many other expenses lining themselves up one after another, but now we had no set amount of income. For me as the provider of the house, I especially found it difficult. Yet, God knew our family's needs down to the pennies. We had a few scheduled meetings to start with, but they were not very close together. I had a tank of gas that I used for my lawn mower that

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was usually half full after I finished mowing. Several times along the way I had to pour that gas into the car to make it to the next meeting. God provided **exactly** what we needed while at the same time stretching our faith. As for our bank account, there were times that we were down to less than a dollar but the bills had been paid. Regarding our car, it broke down a couple of times, but it was never hours away from home, which relieved the stress that could have come.

On one occasion we were headed to help a church with their VBS. As we traveled down the road, rain began to fall harder and harder (nothing unusual for North Carolina). About

thirty minutes down the road I noticed my window wipers slowing down, and suddenly the battery light came on. The window wipers were now crawling across the window, and there was low visibility. Hannah grabbed the GPS and searched for the closest auto parts place. The GPS said it was 2 miles away. Still not able to see very well, we pulled off the interstate onto an unfamiliar exit; as soon we pulled up to a stoplight, the car turned off. The GPS still said about 2 miles to the next AutoZone. But to our surprise, we saw a Napa Auto parts just down

the hill. When the light turned green we simply rolled down the hill and into the parking lot. Praise the Lord! We did not make it to the VBS that night but we went home with a new battery, a new alternator, and a **thankful** heart.

One thing that was neat to see was that while we did not have meetings scheduled every Sunday and Wednesday, we would sometimes drop in on someone and they would allow us to share our ministry, either that night or soon after. We have been privileged to present our ministry in a total of **forty-eight** churches. In some cases the love offerings we received were just enough to cover our expenses. If we were in need of money, it always seemed to be enough or sometimes a member of the church who had only talked to us for a few minutes would give us a green handshake. Our custom was not to look at what we got until after the service and meeting(s) were over. Sometimes we were surprised to find that people had given us very large bills.

There was one month in which we had nothing to spare, but we had casually talked about how nice a little coffee table would be for keeping our Bibles on, as well as a new stove. Of course, we had no plan of buying either. Soon, without having mentioned it to anyone, we were **given** a small table and a much nicer stove! In addition, we also received a couch, a bookshelf, a small grill, and a set of beautiful lamps – all within a week or two, and from three different sources! Near Christmas

time we were invited to a church banquet in which we were given a beautiful handcrafted cedar coffee table. These were not needs, but God was so gracious as to give us some “wants.” We have played both the part of Elijah and the part of the poor widow (1Ki.17:9). God has used people that had very little to help us, and at times He has impressed upon our heart to help others even though we had very little.

Consequently, our **faith** has grown.

On another occasion, we were going on a ten hour trip only to hear the brakes on our car begin to squeal. I knew they were getting close to the time they needed to be changed, so I decided to get it taken care of when I got back a week or two later. One of the men from the church we visited rode with us a couple times; he heard the sound of the brakes and asked a few questions. The very next day he let us know that several people had gotten together to get us **new brakes**. Praise the Lord, we drove back rejoicing that God had taken such care of us!

There are still many stories to tell, but I will just tell one more. Our Mission board has been very good at assisting us in keeping up-to-date on our taxes so that we will not be overwhelmed

every year. As a result, we had a very decent tax return this year which we planned to use to get a **new van** that would fit all four of us (including daughter number two) and all of our travel stuff. As we began to research vans and hunt for those on sale, a pastor called me and began interrogating

us on how we were doing and what our needs were. Eventually, I told him about our plan to



get a new van. He jumped on the opportunity and asked me to send him the costs we were looking at. As we prayed and searched, eventually we were able to find a 2006 Nissan Quest that was very suitable to our situation. The pastor and his church sent us \$1,780, which has gone into insuring that the van was ready for long distant travels. We would not have been able to get a van as nice as this one without their help! Like a grandfather's face lights up when he sees his grandchildren, may God's face light up (Num.6:25) when He sees these, His

children, that are willing to give themselves to His work (2Co.8:3)! We were debating on whether or not to list all of the people by name that helped us up until now, but we decided to leave such helpers anonymous. We know who they are, and they know who they are, but most importantly, God knows them. Our prayer is that God would **richly reward** them in this life but even more in the life to come.

Thankful for all our regular faithful supporters and those who give when they can,  
Rolando, Hannah, Azelia, and Viana

