

Dear Friends at First Christian Church of Beloit,

Greetings as we come to the end of the summer. We have much to thank the Lord for as we have seen His bountiful blessings. His grace is new each morning and we have so much to praise the Lord for here in America even if our country is going downhill. Sara & I also thank the Lord for each of you who continue to stand with us as we seek to minister to those God brings across our path.

This past month has been one of reflection, maybe in part due to the fact I am approaching that age of 65 and realizing that life is marching on. I have been thinking a lot about missions and the future of missions and reading about how God is working in other parts of the world. I would like to share some thoughts with you and hopefully not bore you out of your mind.

“The world is more willing to receive the gospel than Christians are willing to give the gospel.” So said a Russian church planter in hostile Muslim territory. Formerly a Muslim himself, his heart is for winning his people—Muslims—to Christ. The KGB, in cahoots with the Muslim imams in the area, ordered him and his family to leave the area where he has been pastoring his third fledgling church. He was comparing the response to the gospel by Muslims he has reached with the indifference and fear of Christians to speak of their Savior. I have given much thought to this statement. From our experiences working with the internet ministry of Obrerofiel, I think it is true. Let us determine by God’s power to share the gospel openly and boldly whenever we have the chance. And let us give generously to those who are on the “frontlines” sharing the gospel, and partner with them whenever possible. And more than anything, let us be faithful to PRAY for them!!!

When I was seeking to get permission to use copy righted songs for Obrerofiel for Spanish speakers to listen to and use, the one company that I worked with for over 6 months could not believe that the majority of Mexicans have no access to Christian radio. Rio Grande Bible Institute has a station that beams about 100 miles into northern Mexico and the Guatemalan Christian radio beams into the southern part of the country, but the bulk of the population lives in a strip from 150 miles north and 150 miles south of Mexico City, where over 80% of the population of about 1,100,000 people have no access to Christian radio. Tools like Obrerofiel are the only resource that is available to many of them.

We are being faced with the challenge of getting people or churches to pray and give to Obrerofiel. When it was new, foundations were willing to help get it started. But most foundations will not continue to support a Christian ministry like this after the initial startup. We see very little interest in churches to help in a ministry like Obrerofiel, which is impacting Spanish speakers in significant ways. Several hundred thousand people wrote in last year inquiring about salvation. Close to 20% of those writing in to ask questions about the Bible were Catholic. We could not make many inroads when living in Mexico because Catholics were afraid to be associated with evangelical Protestants. But in the privacy of the internet café, they feel more free to ask questions. We even have some priests writing in and asking Biblical and theological questions because they can do it without any one around them knowing.

We have a number of volunteer missionaries who respond to those inquiring about salvation, and we have hired some Mexican believers to follow up the individuals asking about Biblical or theological questions. We pay them about \$400.00 a month, which is a good salary in their economy. We have eight full timers now and could always use more. Funds are low, and we don’t want to have to lay people off. We ask you to pray with us for churches to come along side and see the value of the internet ministry of Obrerofiel. We need more prayer partners as well as financial partners, so we are trusting God to provide.

On the personal front, we are assisting in the start up of a new Platte Valley Chapter for Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF). Tim and Juany, our son and daughter in law recently moved from Dallas, are raising support to be CEF missionaries here in Nebraska. Children are an open door to the gospel, and they are so needy as their families continue to disintegrate. We are gearing up for a CEF *Good News Club* in our local

public school. We praise God for how He opened the door this year for us to do a weekly club. Many of the kids who come have no church background.

Rich is helping out a small Christian school in Grand Island to get back on its feet. The school almost closed a year ago and he is helping them to get things back in order so they can move ahead. It is taking more time than anticipated. He volunteered to help at very little cost to the school beyond gas, so as to help them with their financial struggles. While he's there, Rich has time to work on the internet ministry. We have almost completed the power points of the newly approved songs to put on the site. Now we need to find time to do the recording of the music.

Matthew has started student teaching. God has given him a quality teacher in our local public school, so he can live at home and walk to school. We have been excited about how God answered prayer with his supervising teacher, and are enjoying his living at home as well. He graduates, Lord willing, in December, from UNK, and we're praying with him about what the next step is. He's considering either getting a job teaching or going to Bible school for a year after graduation.

Sara continues to faithfully go to the Hall County Jail once a week and minister with ladies there. There are a few that have accepted the Lord and are moving forward in their walk with the Him, and we praise Him for this. God is at work there, and continues to soften hearts and draw women to Himself. People are hurting everywhere we look, and need the grace of Jesus in their lives.

Our garden continues to keep us busy as we have canned tomatoes, put up over 75 quarts of sweet corn between us and our son Tim, and over 45 quarts of apple sauce, along with other fruits and vegetables. It's the next best thing to going to a local market for fruits and veggies like we did in Mexico, especially during the cold months. We're like the ants who put up food for the winter.

Thank you once again for your prayers and gifts. We appreciate each one of you and praise God for how He has allowed us to continue ministering since returning from Mexico. We know it is because of friends like you that make it possible. Thank you for your part.

Yours in Christ,

Rich & Sara Musgrave