

September 2013

Alex Larkin – Mexico City



Jesús, Johnny, and me standing atop the Aztec ruins in the El Cerro de La Estrella park in Mexico City

¡Saludos from Mexico City! Alex Larkin's September Newsletter

Things are going well here- Two weeks have already flown by and I'm getting to know many of the people in the church and the community.

My primary charge is to head up the youth ministry. Additionally I help the pastor in other miscellaneous capacities and will be teaching some English. I'm starting to gain an appreciation for what it takes to be a youth pastor! Lots of preparation and fun, engaging ideas are needed. My uncle Rev. David Cooke sent me an email that contained some wonderful counsel: "Prepare well, pray up and then leave it in the hands of God."

Every night of the week is full of some sort of worship service or Bible study in some part of town, with the exception of Mondays and Fridays. It's been really awesome to see all the different people groups that Pastor Hector works with.

On Thursdays, a farmers market sets up on our street. I usually spend a good amount of time speaking with some fruit merchants while they share coffee, bread, and all sorts of new fruits with me. (Such as the "tuna" or prickly pear, the fruit of the nopal cactus- very sweet and delicious.)

Every Saturday we visit a Purépecha indigenous community that moved to the city a few years ago. They are skilled furniture makers and have about a dozen young kids. Their perseverance in the face of hardship is quite remarkable, as they were effectively pushed out of their homeland and currently find themselves in very tough living conditions. Yet, they continue to make it through the days and weeks, and make their living entirely off of their carpentry.

Here's a story from a Thursday service: Part way through, Pastor Hector sent me to split up some young'ones. I promised them that if they behaved, they would each get a piece of gum at the end! They took note, and at the end I told them and the other kids about how God is like every good father that wants to give good gifts to his children, but sometimes cannot do so when they don't behave (Matthew 7:9-11). I concluded saying that they all had done fairly well tonight, and gave them each a piece of gum!

I have to say that I love my job.

THANK YOU for all of your support! Without your partnership, none of this would be possible.

God bless you all,

Alex "Alejandro" Larkin

Culhucan, D.F. Ciudad de México, Delegación Iztapalapa, México

Prayer Requests:

Three and a half months isn't much time- over a tenth of it has already gone by! Please remember me in prayer in the following regards:

- That I would be able to develop a deeper friendship with the pastor and his family
- That I would be able to connect with the youth at a deep level, and find ways to connect with other youth not yet involved with the church
- That in all that I say and do I would express heartfelt praise and appreciation for this land and people.
- That God would use me to make a lasting positive impact on my community
- Praise for God's provision- prayer support, finances (everything I need and a just few dollars more!), health, and support from friends and family
- For the many people dealing with loss and displacement as a result of the hurricanes in other areas of Mexico