

"November" 2013

Alex Larkin– Mexico City



One of the gingerbread houses we made

¡Saludos from Mexico City!

Alex's "November" Newsletter

More at:

alexlarkin.org

Hello friends and family!

I apologize for the tardiness of this "November" newsletter; so much has been going on that I lost track of time!

My friendship with David continues to develop. (David is the man I mentioned previously who is getting involved with the youth leadership.) He works for Operation Serve International, which provides medical clinics for low-income communities. This, in addition to their Christmas-gift distribution component, opens many doors to share Christ's love

and healing with the people. I had the opportunity to join David and a mostly-US team for three days as we worked in communities surrounding the city dump. It was amazing to see the hope and joy on people's faces when they received a badly-needed pair of glasses, or when the children opened their Christmas gifts- a doll, a stuffed animal, or a soccer ball. Their faces just lit up!

David continues to be involved with the youth group as much as he is able. (His work schedule occasionally conflicts.) I know that your prayers have been an integral part of David's stepping up into involvement. Please continue to pray for his leadership and that he would assume the lead role after I leave.

A few weeks ago I started a series on Apologetics, or why we can be confident that what we believe is Truth. Last Saturday we started the evening by making gingerbread houses (a completely new concept for them!) and then got started. The question that interested them most: why does a merciful God allow so much suffering? We will be finishing that question on the 14th. Today on the 7th we went fishing! I hope they understood that we as Christians should also have some fun!

Also, attached is a story about my trip to Xalmolapa.

I have just over two weeks before I go home for Christmas, and it makes me emotional as I reflect on my time here, and think about all the meaningful friendships I have developed. I originally expected to know by now if I was coming back, but Pastor Hector and I have yet to make a decision in that regard. I will let you now, after I know!

Thank you so much for all of your prayers and for your partnership with me.

God bless,

Alex "Alejandro" Larkin

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Prayer Requests:

Thank you for your prayers! Please pray:

- For youth group on the 14th- that I would be able to give a good response to the problem of pain
- That I would use the few days I have left here to their fullest; that I would know how to best prioritize my time
- That David would assume the leadership role
- 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 God would use me to make a lasting positive impact on my community
- Praise! As of my most recent data, all pledges have come in on time.

Xalmolapa

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This weekend two other church members and I went to visit Xalmolapa (pronounced “Chaam-o-la-pa”) to build relationships with a Free Methodist church plant there. Xalmolapa is an agrarian community of about 200 people, half way between Mexico City and Oaxaca.



I don't know all of the details, but before Pastor Odilón became a Christian, he lived a “worldly life” and his family ran the risk of falling apart as a consequence. Thankfully, he and his whole family came to know God while living in Phoenix, Arizona. His family saw great healing during this time. During his first two years as a believer, a desire grew in his heart to go back to the province of Guerrero share the hope of Jesus with his home town, Xalmolapa.

God paved the way, and today in this community there is a small congregation and even a church building to go with it.

While there I started building a friendship with the pastor's family, and taught the children's Sunday school on Saturday and Sunday. I was privileged to go hiking up the nearby mountain with the pastor's son and his friend- most of the pictures are from that trip. We also went to the neighboring town of Cualác to cheer on the pastor's daughter in the yearly youth cross-country race. I also played some of the most intense soccer that I can remember.

I ate the best corn tortillas of my life, experienced some new culinary dishes, and learned about six new words that pertain specifically to the different parts and stages of corn. More important than all of this, however, I was blessed with the privilege of hearing some of Pastor Odilón's testimony, and developing a rich friendship with him and the other community members. I am hopeful to have the opportunity to return.

-Alex Larkin

more potos at alexlarkin.org/xalmolapa