

"When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.' " Matthew 9:36-38 (ESV)

Prayer Requests

- **Latin America International Jornada:** We are scheduled to start an online Jornada in June for participants throughout Latin America. I was contacted by leadership that we are lacking co-leaders for the Jornada. ***Pray with us earnestly that the Lord would send other co-leaders to minister.*** We have participants but don't have enough leaders.
- **Comitán in-person Jornada:** We continue to add people to a waiting list for a week-end intense jornada in-person here in our home. Again, we need co-leaders to help minister to the small groups. ***Pray for us too as we try to find the laborers to work with the groups.***
- We have been helping two young churches in Tuxtla Gutierrez that are working with younger populations that find it hard to find churches that accept them (tatoos, rocker-types etc). We recently donated Tom's printed theology books to both churches and they were excited to receive them. Tom has online theology materials in LOGOS. Both churches are interested in coming to help get a similar church running here in Comitán. ***Pray with us for these young churches and their leadership: "Bunker" with Amilkcar and Marina as their leadership team; and Iglesia Reformada 242 with Jorge and Pao as their leadership team.*** Jorge and Pao are praying if they should move to Comitán since it is Pao's hometown and they have a heart to plant a church here. They have asked us to pray with them for wisdom and guidance.
- **Counseling and ministering opportunities:** The Lord continues to bring us people who need to deal with abuse in their childhoods that has created barriers to them understanding God's love for them. ***Pray for wisdom and that the Lord would meet them where they are and speak to their hearts.***

Waiting on Grapes

"I am the true vine and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit." John 15:1-2 (ESV)

We bought a white seedless grape vine five years ago to plant in our garden at the house. Each year, we have waited rather impatiently to see if it would bear fruit that year.



Invariably, the plant would have many branches, which after awhile would get rusty colored and need to be pruned back. This year, we were even tempted to pull it out and call it quits. And then it happened, we had two bunches of flowers on the vine! In spite of our ignorance, we will have some grapes this year.

In order to be better vinedressers, we are learning what they do to get plenty of healthy fruit from the vine and how to avoid diseases and vine-fretters that attack the vine. Here is a bit of what we are learning:

- ❖ Prune the vine during a dormant season. By cutting back the vine during dormancy, you prepare the vine for the season of growth. ***Do you sometimes feel that you are in a dry patch and God seems to allow many things to happen in your life? Maybe He is just pruning the dead branches, preparing you to produce better fruit when the rain comes in season.***
- ❖ When you prune, you always are thinking two or three years ahead, and how your pruning will shape the vine and the subsequent branches. ***God prunes us back with an eye to the future. The pruning He does is to yield better fruit for years to come.***
- ❖ Grape harvests are not like wheat harvests. It takes years for the vine to prepare for fruit. Don't compare wheat to grapes, the farmer knows the seasons for harvest. And not all grapes are ready to harvest at the same time. ***It requires active hands-on interaction with the vinedresser through pruning, shaping and harvesting. Trust him!***

Jesus is our vine, God the Father is our vinedresser and we are the branches! May the Living Water bring forth fruit in us!

Tom and Nancy Rach