Chiapas Chatter

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"For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned." Romans 12:3 (ESV)

Grace in the Journey

When God moves with grace in our midst, it is a beautiful thing to behold. He uses whomever or whatever He chooses to be His instrument of healing and truth in the lives of His children. I have had the privilege of seeing the Holy Spirit move in hearts, lives and stories for most of my life, but especially these last 14 years of working with Corazones Abiertos.



We finished our fall Journey group (La Jornada Comienza) in September. It was amazing to see how the Lord worked in the lives and stories of our participants. Each one delved deeply into their past, present and opened their futures to Jesus.

September ended with a women's conference in Miacatlán, Mexico with 100+ women from five churches that form "Iglesias Bíblicas Fundamentos Firmes" (IBFF). The weekend theme was "Grace in the Journey" and we used materials from Corazones Abiertos and did some small group work after each session. We started our teaching with a short intro on God's Grace and our need for Jesus. The sessions that followed started with Spiritual Battles and ended with Forgiveness. May the Lord continue to use the materials and tools that the ladies learned that weekend to grow each according to His plan for their lives!



Traveling: Virginia & Michigan

We are headed to Virginia in November but will be back in Michigan for December and part of January. If you would like us to visit your church, small group or Bible study, contact us at: thodrach@hotmail.com or (269) 635-5029 (leave a message) or send a text message (SMS) to +529631449072 (My Mexican cell phone). We'd love to share our hearts and ministry with you.

Tom and Nancy Rach serve with Equip, Inc., P.O. Box 1126, Marion, NC 28752
"For the Equipping of the Saints and the Strengthening of the Body of Christ" Eph 4:12



The Sting of Peace



The night before the conference started, I was stung by a scorpion, which was hiding under the pillow on the bed, at a conference center out in the boondocks. Armed with prayer and only an allergy tablet to hold me all night long until we could go to a hospital the next day, the Lord protected me. I suffered 24 hours of burning pain, numbness and tingling, and thankfully, no allergic reaction.

As I think on that experience, I come away with a few thoughts to share. We lived in tropical heat in Tapachula for nine months, no one was stung by scorpions even though we had many in our home. But it was because we were alert and aware of their presence. This rascal got me because he hid where I least expected him and my guard was down. I hadn't thought ahead to where the conference would be held and hadn't considered the "wildlife" so I came unprepared for the battle. Isn't that usually how the enemy gets us? When we are not on guard, distracted and unprepared?

I admit that at 3am, in pain, I asked the Lord, "Why in the world did I agree to come here?" The spiritual battle began the night before the session on Spiritual Battles. If I hadn't participated in this conference, the ladies attending that weekend would not have had the same conference and the same experiences. The Lord had a purpose for each of us to be there.

Jesus felt the sting of the scorpion. The Hebrew word for scorpion "aqrab" means the animal and it means a scourge. Jesus felt the Roman flagrum (scourge) when He went to Calvary for you and for me.

We celebrate Jesus' birth in December, usually with Isaiah 9:6 (ESV) "For unto us a child is born..." But forget the words of Isaiah 53:5 (ESV): ""...he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace and with his wounds we are healed." His obedience bought our peace and our freedom from the sting of sin and death. Satan lost the battle and the war.

"...he shall bruise [overwhelm, break, bruise] your head and you shall bruise his heel." Gen. 3:15 (ESV) "Death is swallowed up in victory O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" 1Corinthians 15:55 (ESV)

May Christmas always remind you that peace comes with a cost!

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