



*Rosita, doing Psychology
in Mexico City
& Boni at High School in Oaxaca*



*Bible study & Prayer at
Presidentes Community Center*



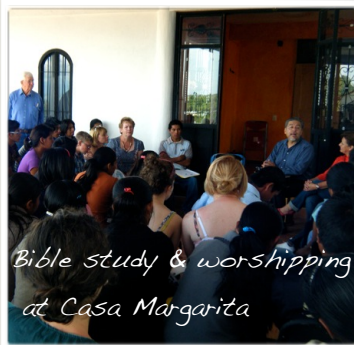
Lupe & Family at Chichicaxtepec



Armonía
together, transforming
poverty into life...



Joaquin



*Bible study & worshipping
at Casa Margarita*



Helping one another



*Landslides in Oaxaca
highlands, where our
students come from*

THANK YOU, LORD. THANK YOU, BROTHERS & SISTERS

...having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which is among you, and the love which you have toward all the saints, I don't cease to give thanks for you. (Ephesians 1:15 &16, NIV)

With deep gratitude we come to the Lord to thank Him for his eternal and daily blessings. We also want to thank you:

- For your faithful and sacrificial support of the work of the Lord among the needy, and for the love and support you have shown us.
- For collaborating with us in providing the scholarships and resources to continue with the programs in Mexico City and Oaxaca.
- For keeping the Cruz family in your prayers as we made an effort to participate in *The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization* in Cape Town, South Africa.





THANKSGIVING UPDATE

When we came back from Cape Town we had to catch up and finish with many pending things. Only two days after arrival and still with strong jet-lag, we took a five - day trip to Oaxaca to visit the AIMS students and to see how things were after the last terrible rainy season. Very unexpectedly, we found Oaxaca was freezing cold and I (Saúl) caught a bad flu.

Oaxaca

To have a better understanding of how things really were going, I got together with a large number of indigenous pastors (400 of them) that had invited me to talk about Christian marriage for a day and a half. I also addressed our Armonia students, and we talked a bit about their villages and their parents.



People are managing their crises and losses for now, using what they have, busy with the reconstruction of their homes, and gathering all the food from their fields that was not destroyed by the rains, and hunting as much as they can since winter is very near. They are only requesting flu-alleviating products and vitamins, while some would appreciate a sweater. We have done what we can with our own resources, as we received very little help for them. We think that perhaps by mid January or February some of the weaker families might need some corn, beans, rice and oil. We need to start preparing for that contingency.



When we got to Oaxaca we found our AIMS students were very cold with the exception of our dear Amellie! Who, being German, knows a lot about cold weather. Amellie is now fluent in Spanish after having taken lessons and after having been practicing a lot with the students! She seems to be very happy living with them.

Pilar took the student to the shop right away for warmer socks and fabric, and that night everybody had scarves and some warmer bed sheets. We also celebrated birthdays and had a special donut night! As a new movie theater was recently opened in Oaxaca City, Pilar managed to get discounts and free gifts for some of our kids and we enjoyed a movie evening with lots of pop corn! Some of them were needing a bit more help with their clothing, and the basic were purchased or manufactured by them! For this Christmas season, we will need warmer clothing for our students. That is a priority for this December, but it doesn't seem that a church or a group is going to visit us to help us this coming Christmas, except for David Cross, from Willow Creek, PCA Orlando. If we don't have a group that might impact our traditional trip to Mexico City for those students who got the best grades at school, since we wouldn't have any extra income for that trip. We ask you to please keep this in your prayers.



Broken Van and a Fantastic Visit to an environmentally-aware Zoo

We came back from Oaxaca on Wednesday but by Friday, most of the students in Mexico City wanted to go to Oaxaca to visit their parents and see how they are doing after the rains. As they had a long weekend but little money to travel, Pilar and I decided to take them ourselves at least to Oaxaca City. We felt that the traveling times would give us the opportunity to have some significant conversations with them. After all, my flu was not as bad anymore, and I could drive. Alejandro had some resting time with his family and stayed in Mexico City. Only an hour and a half after we left home our van broke down on the road. Our other van was at the workshop and we would have to wait till the next day to have a vehicle. So, after we managed to send the van to a workshop, we were stranded in Puebla, the 15 of us! Thanks to the Lord, we managed to make a deal with a hotel and had enough cash for food. Next day, Alejandro brought us the other van after getting it out of the repairing workshop. It was too late to go to Oaxaca and we spent the day visiting a great environmentally-aware zoo. Once again, the Lord surprised us, as we got unexpected discounts at the zoo. We came back to Mexico City late at night, very happy and excited. Nobody complained for not being able to travel to Oaxaca and we all celebrated the wonderful, adventurous, and blessed time together. This was a very needed time for us to be together and to feel closer to each other. We had the opportunity to talk, to reflect on the Lord's word, and to pray. We also had a lot of fun with wild animals which none of the students had seen before in real life. We asked if they wanted to step out of the van and sit next to the tigers for a great picture. As they didn't want to, we missed taking that great photo! We all thank the Lord for his wisdom and provision.



The broken van is still at the workshop in Puebla. One of the main problems we are going through right now, comes from the fact that our cars are in need of new spare parts and extensive maintenance, since visiting the mountain villages under such bad weather this year, has been very hard on them. They were broken two weeks ago, and we have got only one of them out of the workshop. We had to spend quite a lot to repair the driving wheel and the break system of our blue Ford van. The other two (the golden van, and the white pick up which stays in Oaxaca) are still in the workshop. Please pray for this matter as we need everything to work fine for this coming season.

Some important prayer requests:

You have been faithful and generous supporters, and we thank the Lord for your life. In view of the scarcity of our resources, we need your help to pray that we will have more partners to assist us with their resources in these ministries for the coming years. If you want to become one of them, please click below on any of the Armonia supporting groups and please let us know you did.

Please consider what can be accomplished with monthly giving and gifts for capital needs. If you need a list, please consider [Jim Seay's electronic letter](#) and give through your own network.

If you can give something extra or just a special gift, please get in touch with us at armoniadirector@mac.com. Remember that all your giving will be done through official Armonia donor organizations. So, can you help us :

- To have the resources to finish the basketball court ?
- To mount a new engine in one of our vans?
- To have a green house in both Oaxaca and Mexico City to keep the students producing part of their own food?
- With resources to finish the fence in the Oaxaca project?
- With a ten-year-old or older pick-up truck in good shape that you can donate together with the resources to bring it to Mexico to be used in the harvesting fields, done through Armonia US?
- With resources to get the white pick up out of the workshop in Oaxaca?
- To get the best students from Oaxaca AIMS to Mexico City this coming Christmas?

Thank you for your support, love and prayers.

With much love in Christ, Saul & Pilar



To give in the U.S., please send all donations to

Armonia U.S., Inc.
114 Satsuma Drive
Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
or visit
www.armoniaus.org

To give in the U.K. please visit Armonia U.K. on the web at

www.armonia-uk.org.uk

If you are connected to Orangewood PCA, please send your donations to Orangewood Pres. Church
1300 West Maitland Blvd.
Maitland, FL 32751
Please designate "Armonia" on your check