



Dear Greg, Jim, Owen, Lee, Karen, Joe, David, Stan, Chris, Bev, and many many more friends,

Christmas celebrations are on the move! Thank you very much for your love and support for the Armonia causes in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We started with a very blessed time in Oaxaca where Jim, Chris and Bev arrived to representing all of you with all the things we were needing. Their arrival was delayed and Chris got a very strong cold but we all very felt blessed by the Lord. The party went very well and the food, prepared by the students themselves was great. The joy of shoes and warm clothing and feeling loved was wonderful!



Amelie and Chris opening the 500 pounds of gifts!



Caramelized chicken with grapes and apples was prepared by the students for their guests!



Christmas 2010 at Casa Margarita

This year we don't have many resources but we decided to move on and bring 23 kids from Oaxaca to Mexico City. Their trip was very much deserved.

It was not easy, as in the context of the celebrations, Irene, Sam and Isabel's mother had a hemorrhage in her town and we made her come to Oaxaca as a matter of an emergency and Pilar sent Irene from Mexico City to help.

Extracts from two letters will give you an idea on how hectic things were:

"Jim,

These are wonderful news. I am so glad the visit was good and a blessing for you. I am also super happy with Chris's enthusiasm. Please also thank him for the gift... Irene's mother came out of her, after all, small operation and she is recovering and under treatment. Her doctor, our friend, said that he was "even proud of himself" on how well everything went. Praise the Lord"

Another letter:

"Yesterday, we took a woman to be operated as an emergency. Then we drove to Mexico City and went to bed till 3 in the morning. I then ran to get barely on time for my dental surgery. It took three hours and then they drove me back home. I slept until 20 minutes ago and I am trying to catch up. I can't have a Skype conference right now, I am sorry." (to a volunteer's program director)

Then we had a scare. Kids were supposed to arrive from Oaxaca on Friday night. They didn't, at 6 o'clock in the morning next day, concern got me out of the strong muscle relaxant they gave the night before so I could sleep after the dentist. We managed to get in touch with Joaquin after a while and they were stopped on the road. There had been an accident of a truck they told us. The roads had to be closed. So many hours? We kept praying. I had to go back to the dentist, they had to do more things and I was very uncomfortable. Kids arrived near 11 in the morning. Last night we heard, firstly through the BBC, that at least 28 people have been killed and many others injured in a deadly blast on Mexico pipeline. Once more thieves were trying to steal fuel from a pipeline. Praise the Lord, once more, everybody in our groups are fine!

Sadly, the Oaxaca AIMS students missed Jalalpa's Christmas dinner which was extraordinary. Jalalpa ladies together with Sergio and the Perez girls (Alejandro and Laura's daughters) put on the " The Pilgrim's



Remedios and her two boys with Pilar. They are recovering, but tears were shed remembering Palomita



The play crew with Pilar!

Progress" as their Christmas play on a very contemporary urban take. We thank the Lord for this community of



Jalalpa Street

Christians trying to be a light in the darkness. This year the people of Jalalpa had a very special gift



AIMS students enjoying Casablanca and their gifts after a long trip from Oaxaca

for the AIMS kids and they were sure that they all would get it even if it was late!

Our faithful friend and supporter David Cross arrived that afternoon with financial resources gathered from his friends and members of his Willow Creek PCA Church in Orlando and lots of gifts, among them some of yours.



David Cross at Hornos Community



Saul preaching at Hornos

After a short night we all went to visit the Hornos Community who are anxious to move to their newly built apartments. I had the privilege to preach on bringing Jesus to their hearts and into their new homes and to leave behind the old life. We had a wonderful time of peace sharing and preparation for the moment in which they will move from being homeless to proud owners of their new apartments.

We pray that we will be able to help them to get established when that time comes! Enormous gratitude was displayed by the community towards us and towards you in spite of the distance. They welcomed very much the chicken and bread you sent them through us.



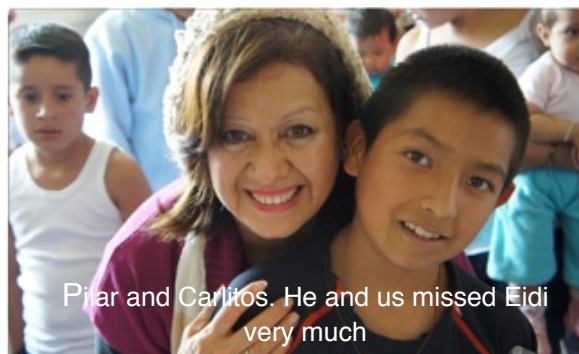
Juan Carlos at work!

Juan Carlos did a great job as always



Christmas 2010 at Hornos Community

and Pilar talked to the children and gave them sweets helped by the AIMS students.



Pilar and Carlitos. He and us missed Eidi very much



Thanks!!!



Pilar telling the Piñata Story

Presidentes had a wonderful Christmas celebration last night. Pilar captured their attention in a very special moment when she shared the "Piñata Story" and related it to our growth in Christ. I had the opportunity to preach as well and we all enjoyed an amazingly vivid singing from the kids and a lot of new



Presidentes worshipping at Christmas 2010

urban worshipping which is developing at Presidentes. The play "A Christmas Miracle" was intertwined with fabulous singing and dancing from their kids which all the congregation joined in!



Saul Jr sharing a message of love to Presidentes people

To end the night, 43 of

us went to the movies for a special time with the AIMS students! First time for most of the kids in Mexico City, in a megaplaza, and for a 3D movie.

Thank you for your love and support.

Merry Christmas!

Saul and Pilar Cruz



AIMS at University Plaza

