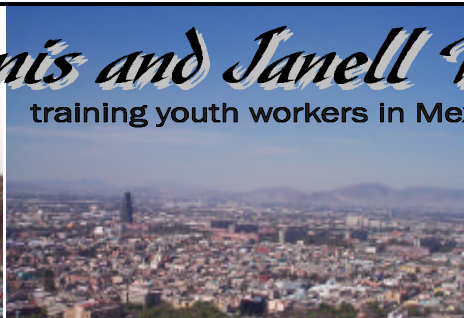


Dennis and Janell Poulette

training youth workers in Mexico City



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ON THE FLIP SIDE

New Year's Goals

Please Pray

The Next Few Months

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THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS

"Then it was said among the nations,
'The Lord has done great things for them.'
The Lord has done great things for us, and
we are filled with joy" (Psalm 126:2-3).

It all began in August when we arrived in Mexico without a clue as to what God would do in our lives in the next few months. The day after we arrived, we headed down to Cuernavaca to begin language school. We lived with the Hernandez family for two months, enjoying the time together with them and learning a lot about Mexico, our God, and ourselves.

The 2 months with the family was almost up, but we were convinced we needed to learn more Spanish. The only way to afford more classes was to find our own place. We looked for more than 2 weeks with no luck, only to have God provide one day after some intense prayer (imagine that!). We are now renting a



house in Cuernavaca and can afford to attend language school even longer.

If housing in Cuernavaca is going to be this tough, what about Mexico City? Well, one day, God provided a place for us beginning in August 2004 rent-free. Another missionary family is going back for almost a year and offered to let us stay in their house (we get to watch their animals—we've done that before).

"Now, if only we can find a car within our budget." Guess what, God knows how to get cars, too. The International Mission Board missionaries helped us buy a car with a great discount. They even helped us with the tags, title, inspection, and all the other good stuff that comes with buying a car.

Even with all of the good things that God has done for us in four months, there are still times when we lack faith. Please pray that we will remember the great things He has done for us.

WHAT'S A CYM?

You have probably read a lot about a CYM, or Center for Youth Ministry, in our information. That's because it is a major part of our ministry here in Mexico. We have come to Mexico to train youth workers for local churches, and the CYM is a tool that we use to accomplish that purpose.

The CYM is a youth ministry training program in an institution of higher education (The Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary) that will prepare students to work in a local church youth ministry.



The CYM in Mexico City is just being born. The classroom instruction will take place at the Mexican Seminary, where students will be trained in developing an effective ministry to young people as well as learn theology and Bible. They will practice what they learn in certified churches near the seminary under the supervision of local church leaders.

Please pray for us as we continue preparing this program this summer.

NEW YEAR'S GOALS



Janell and her Spanish teacher
Lupita.

What's a new year without goals? My dad always told me that without goals in life, you'll never accomplish anything just like without goals in basketball nobody would ever score. Here are some of our goals for 2004.

Language/culture learning: To obtain enough proficiency in Spanish to be able to teach at the seminary by August. Develop relationships with Mexicans to help us understand better both their language and their culture.

CYM: Promote, translate, and plan the youth ministry program. We want to promote the program to obtain students, translate classes into Spanish, prepare churches to train students, and plan for

the next few years of the program.

Partner: Inform praying and giving partners through regular email and newsletter updates while informing partnering churches through pictures and videos.

Youth Ministry Trainers: Network with as many other Latin American youth ministry trainers as possible while staying current on youth ministry by reading books, attending conferences, and visiting youth ministry websites.

Children of God: Be actively involved in a local church and continue developing our personal lives with God.

We have more goals than this for 2004, but hopefully these give you a better idea of what we are trying to accomplish this year.



Statue of Jesus spreading His
arms out over the city of
Taxco.

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you so much for your continued prayers for us and this ministry. Some specific items to be praying for this month are:

- ✠ We can find a house to rent for 6 months in Mexico City and for adjustment to a new city when we move there.
- ✠ Continued improvement in language learning. That we can find good language helpers and be diligent to study

and use our Spanish.

- ✠ Promotion of the CYM at the Mexican Baptist Theological Seminary. That we will be prepared with the classes and churches to train and equip youth leaders to effectively reach the next generation.
- ✠ An increased understanding of Mexican culture and people.

"It may be put down as a spiritual axiom that in every truly successful ministry prayer is an evident and controlling force."

- E.M. Bounds

THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

Here's where we're headed in the future.

February: Attend language school another 4 weeks, taking a week off to head to Mexico City to house shop. We will sharpen our Spanish with custom program to meet our needs.

March: Move to and get adjusted to Mexico City. We aren't sure what this will entail, but we will probably need to buy some furniture and set some things up in our new place.

April-June: Begin developing certified

churches where youth ministry students will be able to work for their degree in youth ministry.

July: We will entertain a group from Cornerstone University and another from New Hope Community Church as well as promote the Center for Youth Ministry at the Mexican Baptist Convention.

August: Participate in a CYM summit at the YMI office in Kentucky. We also begin classes at the seminary this month.