

Saracoff Sentinel / Team Tijuana

Summer 2009



Rejoice, Pray, Memorize, Be Content by Greg

Points for Prayer

- Wisdom for all of us to be good stewards of God's resources.
- Restoration of families—parents caring for children, elderly not forgotten, teens honoring their parents.
- People's hearts turned to Jesus in these times of economic uncertainty & violence in Tijuana.
- For those who remember La Roca & Pastor Miguel: he was recently hospitalized w/ heart trouble.
- God's provision of uniforms for school children (see p2)
- Unity & love for our team (see John 17:21-26)

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Let us hear from you!

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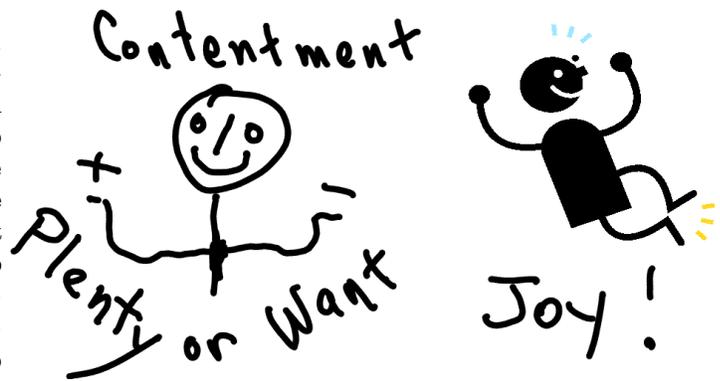
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Paul wrote from prison, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again rejoice." It is one thing to advise others to take comfort and joy in the Lord in hard times but it is quite the person who can actually give the example to us. In our leadership class in Mexico we're studying Philippians 4: 4-13. Our goal is not only to understand the passage but to be those people who are the examples of joy. The verses break down into four practical steps:

1. Seek God's Joy
2. Avoid worry
3. Think rightly
4. Be Content.

We encourage our leaders to memorize God's Word so it will be there when they need it. It is a little harder for Kathy and me to memorize the verses in Spanish, but we try.

I make stick figures and symbols to put on the board as memory aids. Of course it always boils down to rote memory, writing the verses down and going over them together, saying them to each other, and absorbing them into our lives.



The other day I was in the bedroom copying the verses down on index cards. Kathy was very frustrated. She felt she had failed as a parent, the world was falling apart, and she was in tears. I looked up as she entered and saw her need for help. I did not even have to say a word. I just handed her the freshly copied words of Phil. 4:4-13. The Lord did the rest. Later she said that those words were just what she needed at that moment.

The following week one of her Mexican friends called in distress. "Quick, Katy-give me a verse; I am in despair." Kathy was not caught off guard but repeated Philippians 4:4-9 in Spanish by memory without hesitation. These words sent healing through the phone lines.

If you would like to participate, please memorize

at least two verses a week and e-mail us when you can say them all by memory. Kathy and I will be waiting to hear from you! See our webpage for more www.teamtijuana.org

Philippians 4: 12-13

I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. ¹³I can do everything through him who gives me strength.

Prayer Lord, I thank you for a joy that lasts through the worst of bad times. Teach me to be content with what you have given me. Amen.



Carretas Community Center is built! Outside still needs stain & inside needs finishing. Praise God for all who helped & for Chela who feeds/tutors kids & tells them @ Jesus! And PTL for Girl Scouts in MI who helped 20+ get into school.



A truckload of food comes to Tijuana every Thursday, thanks to many friends. This load is for the elderly at the Refugio.

School Starts Soon in Mexico—Uniforms Required

Esperanza Drug Rehab Center and the Refugio for the Ancianos both run on a delicate balance of volunteer help. Many of these volunteers live on-site or near by the ministries. They do not receive any regular salary but live communally and share food and resources with the ministry. Because of this, they do not have funds for special needs like school uniforms and supplies. And uniforms cost \$\$\$!

Would **you** like to bless these volunteers by donating to the School Fund? The costs for school for one child varies from Elementary, Junior High and Senior High. We need to raise money for 28 children. For each child:

\$65 will buy pants, shirt, vest and sweater

\$40 for sweat suit for gym class

\$30 buys a pair of school shoes

\$15 will buy a backpack.

Also needed are school supplies—colored pencils, rulers, paper, sharpeners, scissors. The poorer the school, the longer the list...some even include toilet paper and cement.

Family News....by Kathy



80th Birthday Bash in MN!

My parents, Frank and Sally Dennis, both turn 80 this year, so a reunion was in order. The 5 siblings, 5 spouses and 11 grandkids squeezed into a friend's cabin on a MN lake, coming from China, Indonesia, CA, CO, and the Twin Cities. Mom had suffered a stroke in January, but by God's grace and with the help of Dad and therapists, she is recovering nicely. Our Sunday service at the cemetery where Mom's father, grandfather and great-grandfather are buried gave us a chance to hear about

their legacy of faith and prayer. Dad traces his salvation to the prayers of Mom's family.

He gave blank keys to each grandchild, with the challenge to find out what are those good works that they are uniquely cut out to do. (Eph 2:10)

This year marks 56 years of marriage for Dad and Mom—they are a great example of commitment and contentment in serving the Lord together.



Some of our Team Tijuana got in on a 3-day camping trip in the Baja. Ocean kayaking is crazy fun, (especially for spectators).



Lydia of Esperanza, with mother and sister who tell children @ Jesus in Juarez, a city w/ more violence than TJ.