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Engaging the One to Reach the Many

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Dear Friends,

"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (1 Timothy 2:1-4).

We have been challenged to obey this command in the verses we just read. We want to pray for all kinds of people around us—our families, our neighbors, our Latin friends in our neighborhoods and around the local church—people with all different kinds of backgrounds. We especially pray for leaders in high positions: for our president and his cabinet, the presidents of the Caribbean, and Mexico's president, Claudia Sheinbaum, along with their executive committees, state/provinces, and city governments.

We ask God to give them wisdom to lead well, to lead with righteousness, to look to our Lord to trust in his Word over the ways of this world, and to carry out their governing sovereignty with humility, goodness, and grace so that we might lead peaceful, quiet lives, godly and dignified in every way.

May we take you for a short trip to Mexico to see what has been happening there over the last few months.

Your continued prayers for our Mexican brothers and sisters, OMS missionaries, and ministry partners have seen results and answers. Together, we stand in the gap for them through intercessory prayer.

Ricardo Arizmendi, national director of Satura Mexico, is excited about the ministries in all sections of Mexico due to the special alliances with other denominations and local churches.

Men for Missions evangelism teams have worked alongside some of our Mexican brothers and sisters, sharing the Gospel door-to-door using the evangelism cube. Many people have responded to Jesus and made commitments to follow him.

The baptisms reported from Ricardo in these last few months are the fruit of this witness:

- Pastor Fernando in Pena Alta reported 16 baptisms; their key challenge is focusing on the youth.
- Darbin Canelero, a volunteer in Tabasco, reported many opportunities to share Jesus with new contacts, and people have responded positively to the message. They celebrated four baptisms.
- Pastor Jose and Gricelda from New Hope Church in Mexico City reported baptizing 19 new believers.
- Pastor Juan, the Arch Church in Morelia, Michoacan, baptized five new believers. They are rejoicing in his mercy and grace.

Now let's swim across the Gulf to the Caribbean to visit with some of our leadership partners.

Every Community for Christ's coordinator, Y*, along with N*, national coordinator for training pastors and leaders, shares an exciting story of an experienced pastor and how it changed his life and vision to reach the lost, once he became a partner in another ministry.

This ministry is a church united with one major force by putting all its efforts into the movement of multiplying churches. An OMS partner denomination offers continuous training to their churches and partners with more than 16 denominations and local churches.

Here's the pastor's testimony: "I am a pastor/church planter in a major city and have been a pastor for 25 years in different provinces and ministries. I have never had the opportunity to start a church with zero attendees. We have received training from the network leadership to make disciples that make disciples.

"In a year and a half, we have 105 families committed to Jesus and to the church. In one city, we have daughter churches with 27 people, and another with 34 people. There are two reasons for our growth. First, we give glory to God. If it wasn't for the Holy Spirit guiding and directing us to plant these churches here, it would never have happened. Next, because of the leadership of the ministry's vision to plant churches, by disciples making disciples that plant spiritually healthy churches."

One OMS-related church president reports that new districts have had to be designated to better assist and support the pastors and local churches because of the growth of the house churches in many of the cities. We thank God for our current district superintendents in the east and west districts of this nation.

May our prayers, pleadings, petitions, and thanksgiving be made on behalf of all men—for kings and all who are in authority—so that we may lead tranquil and quiet lives. Our prayers, no matter who or where we are, may make a difference so that we would live in unity in our families and churches that would reveal God's love to the world.

Blessings multiplied,

Willie and Joani Hochhalter

*Names withheld for security