



Gary & Ann Layne
Missionaries to the DEAF of Mexico
Baptist International Missions, Inc.

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“O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things.” Psalm 98:1

Dear Praying Friends,

We must first apologize for the month’s delay in updating our faithful supporters. Although this new year has been exciting, we have started off poorly and been struggling to get the weeks back we lost through sickness. Additional details are in the following part which was actually part of the original letter.

We are excited to see the Lord continue to work wonderfully in this New Year. We ended the year with a real bang. Our Christmas program/fiesta was a tremendous blessing. There were more than 65 deaf there and it gave us a good opportunity to share the Gospel with them. Several of them included deaf who had been faithful in the past, but had disappeared from our services over the last several years. At least four of them have been attending another Gospel church with an interpreter. We are happy that they are seeking to continue on with the Lord, even though they are not with us. This is the first time in more than thirty years that there has been any other Gospel preaching church for them to go to. We see that it is still the Lord who is doing the work. Roberto Palma came from Ciudad Juarez where he is a deaf pastor to the deaf. He was our featured speaker and preached a great message on repentance. We served tamales, a traditional plate for here, and the deaf stayed until dark.

The church planned their celebration of the New Year and decided on an all-night party at Raul’s house. Since we would not have had transportation to or from, we decided to celebrate at home. We started the tradition many years ago when we realized that the streets would be full of celebrants who had been celebrating since early. Both impaired drivers and stray bullets led us to go to the church, stay all night and then return home the following day. We did so for many years. For several years it has been decided by the deaf that it would be better to cancel the program. We were happy to see that they felt safe enough to go back to the special time together.

Along with the good news, the New Year also started off with a bang. Gary ate some tainted food from our own refrigerator and it really made him sick. It took more than three weeks for all of the contamination to clear his body. Almost immediately afterward, he was confronted with a superbly strong strain of bronchitis that has sent him for another bout of physical knockout for more than four weeks. Normally he can shake off the viruses and sickness that go around. This time it took two treatments of injections followed by strong antibiotics to get him back on his feet. We started Ann on strong medication as soon as signs appeared with her. Since we all ride buses weekly with 40-80 persons aboard, it is very easy to be susceptible to anything going around. Gary is getting back to work although it has been a real trial.

Our Valentine Day’s celebration was another great blessing. We had more than 30 deaf with four new deaf that had never attended or had not attended for years. We are still seeking to win new deaf and to teach them the depths of the Word of God. It was especially exciting to see the deaf again plan and execute everything on their own. We love to help and offer counsel, but it is even more exciting when the deaf act completely on their own.

We were unable to tape the class on deafness for pastors in Latin America last Fall. We will attempt to tape the full twelve hours of classes for the seminary so that this course can be offered to hearing pastors. Brother Gary Ellison (Frontier Baptist Missions, Inc. near Harlingen, TX) had a deaf ministry and church in his past pastorate and so he understands the need to reach hearing pastors. So many of them look at a deaf ministry the same as the bus ministry, nursery, etc. This class will instruct them of the need to reach the deaf in their own culture and language. We appreciate your prayers for this.

Thank you for loving, giving and praying for us.

For DEAF souls in Mexico,

Gary Layne

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