



CROSS VISION MISSIONS JUNE 2008, UPDATE

**“BEAR IN MIND THAT OUR LORD’S PATIENCE MEANS SALVATION...”
(2PETER 3:15)**

In America, we are quite simply success-driven in everything we do. We have transferred that same mentality to our Christian service. Often in our mission work, if we do not see hundreds come to salvation we feel that somehow we have let God down. Many times, I have been asked, “Is the mission point we started last year growing?” Honestly, I kind of feel obligated to say, “Yes,” even though I might not be sure of how many have actually joined the church. The past few weeks I have seen both extreme success and a struggling ministry. In Africa, I witness several hundred come to salvation and within a week many of them come to the mother church to be fed with God’s word. Then a week later I returned to the Black Heart area of Mexico where last October we saw more than two hundred accept Christ to learn that almost no change has taken place, as far as the churches go. The Pastors and church members have been going and trying to draw these new believers into the church but it is a painstaking endeavor. In Mexico and all of Central and South America Catholicism has dominated the lives of everyone for more than five hundred years. Yet we expect people to drop their belief system, run to the evangelical church, then act like the Catholic Church has AIDS and it is contagious. Hello! Grandma is Catholic!

With our American way of thinking it is hard to imagine a Church with one hundred members not having a youth ministry, but that is what you have all over third world countries. I am so thankful for Mark Bateman and the Saint Andrews Baptist Youth Ministry. I know I should be calling it student ministry. However, in most Latin American countries the average youth will have an opportunity to achieve only an 8th grade education. So your youth group would, for the most part, no longer be students. If you take away school at 14 and tell the young boys they must go work to help support the family it is only a matter of time before they say, what’s the point, I can support my own family and they go looking for a wife. This means the youth skip from childhood to adulthood overnight. This is where a youth ministry on mission can be used greatly by God. When SABC youth gathered in a big circle around a bonfire, for most of them fellowship and praising God is an every week event they simply were doing it in a different place. However, for Pastor Miguel Angelo and his ten youth this was the first time that they, (teenage boys and girls) had ever fellowshiped together for any reason other than wanting to court. That is right they never knew what it was like to get together and just have fun in the Lord.

Eighteen year old Sarai, one of the Mexican youth in the small community of Poza de Gamboa, shared with me that she had become very attached to Rachel, one of the SABC students. Earlier in the week Rachel had, very openly shared her testimony and her struggle to understand her salvation. Sarai said, “Rachel’s testimony was a real eye opener for me. Now I believe I can have an American girl as a friend, something a week ago I did not believe was

possible”. Sarai added, “I like Eric also”. At one of our many meals I had tricked Eric by asking him if he wanted some tea to drink. When he said yes, I told him just tell Sarai, “Te quiero,” meaning I love you, which he did and believe me it went over big. Especially since her Mom and Dad were sitting just in front of him.

The work in the Black Heart is slow and full of discouragements. The Catholic roots are very deep and they do not readily come to the Christian Church. We must continue to pray and go and encourage these brothers in Christ, not to give up, keep on sharing God’s Word in their homes until they come to realize the truth and see the love of Christ demonstrated through their actions. One of my hero’s has served our Lord for many years in the darkest area of Guatemala and He often say’s “If it were easy it would already be done”.

“We are moving forward on our knees”

Hermano Glen

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