The Lord is doing some wonderful things for our missions work today because He is doing some wonderful things in the lives of our missionaries and national leaders. I’m encouraged!

Marc and Melody report Marc’s safe travel to some distant, remote places in south Mexico. He held services, dedicated babies, and baptized new believers. Praise the Lord for new births!

Steve and Beth have been busy with youth outings and building projects. They are also working with Eli Balderas, our Mexico Institute director, in the planning of the Fall Institute. The Lord has answered prayer and provided the $5,000 needed for these classes from friends in Alabama and Heartland. Thank the Lord! I’ll be flying out on Thursday to share in this important ministry.

Fall Bible Institute Classes
October 28 – 14, 2010
Bible Methodist Church in Rio Bravo, Tamaulipas, Mexico

- **Special Guest Professors:**
  Missions Director Timothy Keep
  and Glen and Helen Reiff

- **Other Professors:** Pres. Eli Balderas,
  Marc and Melodie Sankey, Steve and Beth Stetler

- **Classes to be Offered:**
  - Discipleship
  - Missions
  - Church Administration
  - Pastoral Theology
  - Basic Biblical Doctrines
  - The Role of the Woman in the Local Church
  - Sunday School Workshops
  - Ladies Scrapbook/Prayer Sessions

Please help us pray for God’s presence in each session as we train and equip our Mexican brothers and sisters to fulfill their own Great Commission and take the Gospel to their own people.

“This is the most important day of my life – because it is the only day I..."
R.G. and Sarah sent me a humorous language school report a couple of weeks ago. It’s a good sign when new missionaries can still laugh!

“We’ve survived the first week of language school, so . . . nasayaat nak! :-) Both of our teachers at CLSC have been very nice to work with and I think they will be a big help to us. After class today they were having a farewell party for some Japanese students who have just finished, and so we enjoyed a nice meal with staff and several students. It gave us a chance to get to know some of the folks there a little more. During the meal they took turns singing karaoke. It was kind of funny listening to them trying to sing the American pop songs! I think one of them even sang a country song! They wanted me to sing, but of course, I hardly knew the pop stuff enough to sing it . . . so they started finding a few hymns etc. and asking me to sing them in between the other stuff! It was kind of fun . . . especially when another (Filipino) guy and myself sang “How Great Thou Art” with the Elvis soundtrack! :-) Quite entertaining . . .

I have also received the following update from Sarel and Lintie. Please pray for them as they engage the enemy in spiritually oppressed South Africa:

“God is really at work, in the midst of the still ongoing oppression. We took our stand in the Lord and keep on praying till victory will come, and God will be able to break through. The battle belongs to Him and we can just stand still and see the salvation that He wants to bring. [I’ve been thinking] of your message on David with Goliath, it meant so much to me.

Tomorrow morning we need to see a whole family, [for whom] we [have been] praying for so long. The Lord gave an open door [with them]. They do not belong to the congregation but were once serving the Lord and were hurt, and at present completely backslidden. [They’ve] gotten involved with cultic problems...

During this week a man... came to see us, he is really under conviction of sin, and we will follow him up Lord willing on Monday... Pray that he will meet the Lord. He is divorced... and [presently living with his girlfriend], but realizes that he is lost. [Maybe this will] just open the door to reach her precious soul as well. Other people in the congregation starts to see their need for salvation... we’ll keep on until people will get sanctified, and sense the call of God to get involved in this needy harvest field.”

By the way, the Keep family is very well these days because of the constant flow of God’s amazing grace! Timothy, Jesse, and Carrie are really enjoying Aldersgate Christian Academy, though I doubt they would ever admit to enjoying school. Timothy is on the basketball team and continues to practice the guitar (often, just because he has a gun in his back!). Jesse is still very interested in music – especially the piano, and this past Sunday night he played for our church, receiving a lot of encouragement afterward. Valerie is in her second year at GBS and tells us that the classes are really helping her. The Lord has also provided her with a better, more meaningful job taking care of the mentally handicap. Momma is as wonderful as ever, and enjoying her last year with Samantha at home. See page three for another of her devotionals that I robbed from her computer.

Thank you, friends, for your constant prayer and support of Bible Methodist Missions, its missionaries, and its invaluable national leaders. We also pray for you – that you will keep your eyes on Jesus and your
mind and heart on eternal, imperishable things. May you walk with Him in pure fellowship, and may His peace and joy overtake you on the road!

Marc Sankey sends this along: “People who are obsessed with Jesus aren’t consumed with their personal safety and comfort above all else. Obsessed people care more about God’s kingdom coming to this earth than their own lives being shielded by pain or distress.” - from Francis Chan-Crazy Love

The Missionary’s Obedience
By Becky Keep

As we boarding the plane in Indianapolis Indiana on that chilly October morning in 1996 I was filled with both excitement and trepidation. This was the culminating day after months and months of preparation. We had sang our last verse of “Send the Light” received our final missions offering, made the last trip to Wal-Mart to stock up on those things we were sure that we couldn’t live without and kissed our parents and siblings for the last time. As I fastened my seatbelt and those of our two small children, I remember thinking “This is it! Ready or not, here we go!” I was sure that at the end of this journey, I’d find myself consumed in lofty and noble missionary activities that would lend themselves to the writing of inspiring articles, wonderful journal entries, and a sense of fulfillment that I’d never experienced before. I probably wouldn’t have articulated my feelings, as such then, but it certainly seemed to be a bit of a romantic adventure.

Three short, (but seemingly very long), months later, I found myself gazing into the sky with longing as the trail of a jet plane etched itself into the clouds. In that moment, I would have given my right arm to have been on that plane. My expectations of what it meant to be a missionary, hadn’t quite panned out as I’d expected. Instead of being a virtual soul-winning, Sunday School teaching, nursing, machine I found myself spending each day trying to figure out how to wash laundry by hand without my knuckles bleeding, work up the nerve to light my propane stove, ( I lost eyebrows over this venture), and cook meals using ingredients I wasn’t accustomed too. I took multiple cold showers daily just trying to evade a heat stroke in the 98 degree mission house. And because of the lack of reliable communication my grandmother was dead and buried before I ever got the news. Life was hard. I dreadfully missed my mother and all that was familiar. I remember telling my husband, that all of my activities could be done much more efficiently right back in the good ole USA. What in the world was I doing here? I was anything but an Elisabeth Eliot or Betty Stam!

I knew that culture shock is normal and even to be expected for missionaries. But this was brutal. The worst part being that I felt like such a failure. I compared myself to so many others who seemingly hadn’t struggled in the ways that I had. It seemed that some had even embraced their new country so completely that they never wanted to leave. This was beyond my ability to even imagine!

After months of struggling, I did adjust and grow to love our country of ministry and the wonderful people there. It was years however, before I lost the guilt and shame of those first few months. Satan beat me up frequently, reminding me of what a loser I’d been with my complaining spirit during that first year.

One day however, God taught me a powerful lesson that freed me from this bondage. I will never forget it. As I was praying one late evening, I heard the voice of God as clearly as I’d ever heard it before. “My child”, He spoke to my heart, “all I require of you is obedience. You were obedient. My purpose in bringing you to this place
wasn’t so that you could be or do anything. It was all about Me, and your obedience to My call on your life.” I realized in an instant that our obedience is the key to anything that we can ever accomplish for the kingdom of God. And to struggle does not mean that we have failed. As a matter of fact, struggle when coupled with obedience equals spiritual success, blessing and favor with God!

The very essence of being a missionary, one who is sent by God, is obedience. We are all as Christians, called by God to live out our discipleship in various places and circumstances. It is our faithfulness and obedience, no matter how seemingly small or great the assignment is, that matters to God.

Although, I still consider myself a missionary, today my obedience looks a bit different. I am not living thousands of miles from US soil. Obedience for me is packing my husband’s suitcase and kissing him goodbye as he travels for the cause of foreign missions. It means brailing a History test for my blind 7th grader, or listening to my 7 year old practice her reading. It means praying fervently for the salvation of our children, offering a kind word or prayer for a friend or simply washing the piles of laundry that accompanies having a large family.

What is it, friend, which God has called you to do? Does it seem too difficult, laborious or mundane? Is it completely different than what you had envisioned or even hoped your life would be? I encourage you to simply practice obedience. Obey the Lord no matter what it cost and out of that obedience you will see and experience the greatness of God!

With heartfelt gratitude for you,
Tim Keep (With Becky)
GMS