

Living Clay

MINISTRIES

International Gospel Outreach Missionaries
Ricky and Crystal Parker



2010

started with a great shift in ministry. For the last four years we have taught in Bible schools, evangelized and preached in the *Margarita* area with *Mestizo* and *Tojolabal Indians*. We experienced growth from a small struggling church to several churches now and over two thousand people attending. Our most recent church plant was in *Candelaria*, known as "the people of the clouds."



Because of a special offering given to build a church, we began the process of cutting down trees and cutting planks and beams, and buying tin roofing. During the New Year *Zapatista rebels* took over the area and all construction was stopped. Little by little the *Zapatistas* have released taken areas, but we are still waiting to travel back to *Candelaria*.

On a recent trip to the area, we made contact with some of the people and we are planning a trip back soon. Meanwhile in *Las Margaritas* (the county seat) a new church has begun. Jaime, our co-laborer, is pastoring this new work. This will be the base for new missions started in *Candelaria* and we want to strengthen them to carry on the work. The Bible school is continuing, but Crystal and I will be less involved this year. God has raised up pastors and students to continue teaching. Missionaries are called to work themselves out of a job... praise God this has happened here and we rejoice in it.

Meanwhile, in our schools with the *Tzotzil* and *Tzetal Indians*, we have cut back our visits to one visit a month. For these pastors their course of study ends this year. These shifts in ministry have caused us to look to the Lord and ask; "What's next Lord."



Visits from the past

Fernando, a disciple and member of *Living Clay Church* some 15 years ago, showed up at our door recently. We had lost contact with him several years ago because he moved to another state. He found us because a neighbor that I have been evangelizing happens to be a part of his family. Crystal and I were so happy to know *Fernando* and his wife are serving in a church in *Veracruz*.

Emilio and Gloria also visited us; they were disciples and members of *Living Clay Church* years ago. *Emilio and Gloria* are now pastors overseeing twelve churches which they have started. *Gloria* brought a group of their youth group along, they sang and shared scriptures with us. *Gloria* thanked us and reminded us that because of our work and *Living Clay Ministries*, many of those we lead to the Lord are now pastors and leaders, and hundreds of people have come to the Lord. She said, we continue to be her pastors. Crystal and I, all teary eyed, thanked her for her encouraging words, but mostly we thank God for you who are the important part in this ministry in praying and support us. THANK YOU!

Also this month, all of a sudden we have been contacted by people we worked with on the *Logos* ship 1984 to 1985! Wow!! We even spoke by skype to *Gregory Ward* from *South Africa*. We found and have chatted with friends from *Spain, England, Switzerland, South Africa, Honduras, Philippines, Australia* and the *USA*. It has been amazing to know how and where all these friends are.



"The glory of friendship is not in the outstretched hand, not the kindly smile, nor the joy of companionship, it is in the spiritual inspiration that comes to one when he discovers that someone else believes in him and is willing to trust him."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

What's next?

We want to plant more new churches. It's time to dream and believe God. This next phase of ministry is called *Living Missions*. Imagine if we could just plant one strong and healthy church a year that would reproduce and start other churches. *Living Missions needs your help!* We want to go international... pray that God would direct us in how and where to start churches worldwide. I hope to recruit many brothers and sisters this year putting teams together to go, evangelize and disciple during one or two weeks with the goal of starting and establishing churches. Wouldn't you love to be a part of seeing lives changed for eternity? *Me too!*



Crystal preparing for another clinic...

International Gospel Outreach

The PARKER FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Evangelistic meetings - many people were touched and came to know the Lord

By All Means

Mobile medical clinics have always been a part of our ministry. It helps people, and draws a crowd where we can share the Good News of Christ's love. In March we did three days of clinics at Guatemala border, a seven hour journey for us. During the clinic we saw over four hundred people. We gave out medicine and vitamins to each one. More than 50% of the people came from Guatemala, some travelling three hours to the clinic, crossing a river in a boat to get there. They had heard about the clinic over the radio. These people were very poor and in great need.

We saw how God had protected a seventy five year old lady who had been diagnosed with cancer of the liver 15 years ago and was healed by the Lord. As a testimony you can still see and feel the tumor but the cancer is gone.



Many people - both men and women came to receive from the Lord during the meetings

Clinic in San Cristobal

The pastor's alliance of the city asked us to do a two day clinic. Crystal and I both enjoyed it so much. We lead several people to the Lord and invited them to an evangelistic campaign each night. Although there are now many churches in the city, so many people never go to church, but will come to a medical clinic for help where we can share the gospel with them.

More Ministry

Crystal and I have been invited to several churches in our state and Mexico City to preach. We've been to all kinds of churches, some legalistic, and some free. We have enjoyed the opportunity to share the Word of God. I am also teaching the book of Romans in a local church. It is so exciting to me to teach again this great book. ***The just shall live by faith! We are under grace not law.***

Family

Anna has decided to work for a while to save up some money. She works in a health center working a double shift 6am to 10pm. She wants to go to a school in Puerto Rico or Texas, and found out none of the credits in the college here are transferable. We found a federal grant to help her continue her dream it will help pay almost half. Pray for her please.

Kelly continues homeschooling and also trains (running) everyday two to four hours. She has qualified for pre national in hexagon track. She placed first of 15, out of 1000 other students in the nation. In May she will compete in the national Olympics in Guadalajara. She will be competing in trails in Mexico City this month, Veracruz next month, then in Guadalajara in May.

Living Missions

One friend from Spain spoke to us about the possibility of visiting Spain to start a church. I will be going to Spain in September to begin the process of planting a church there. As some of you know, Crystal and I visited Spain years ago and the people of Spain have continued to be on our hearts. We visited many towns and cities and found very few Christians. The city we are planning to visit has a population of 60,000 and one small Christian church. As we look back and see the eternal fruit from churches planted over the years, we are encouraged to follow the Lord as we plant, water and watch the Lord bring about growth. We can't do this alone! ***Please go with us or help us go any way the Lord would lead you.***

Points of prayer:

Anna's College

Kelly's Olympic track completion

Candelaria Church plant

Crystal (Medical Clinic Ministry)

Living Missions church planting worldwide (Spain)

Ps... We are hoping to visit family and friends soon, I plan on coming to the States to speak in churches and make new friends of the ministry. We would love to come and share with your group, or if you know a group who may be interested in having us come share our vision, please contact us.

Thanks for serving the Lord with us.

Ricky & Crystal Parker

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