



# Risley Family Update

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Taking the Gospel to the Mountain Villages, Prisons and Hospitals of Sonora, Mexico

**August 2010**

## THE LORD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS

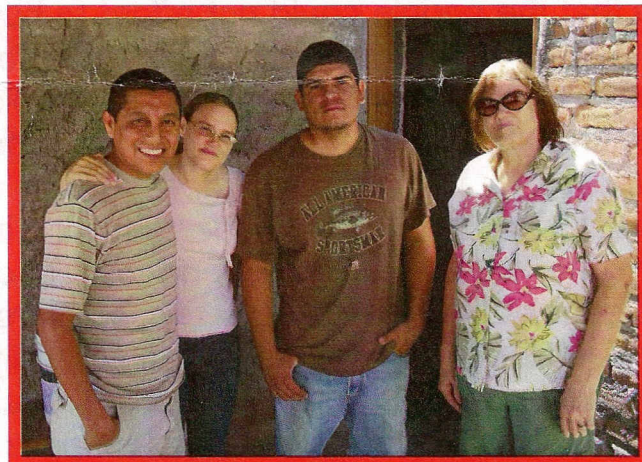


**Courtney and Pastor Roberto**

A few months ago I asked you to pray for a pastor of a church in the village of Ures. This man is a true man of God who has dedicated his life to the winning of the lost to Jesus Christ. Last winter he developed problems with his heart. Within a few weeks he developed total organ failure and had to go in dialysis. We asked you all to pray for him. Many of you wrote us and let us know that you were praying and requested that we keep you informed of his condition. We have a report, and it is a magnificent miracle of the Lord! During the summer he gradually improved to the point where he did not need the dialysis. When he finally went off dialysis his heart problems and

all the other problems with his other organs were gone. He is still very weak and still needs our prayers, but his healing was a true miracle of the Lord. He is getting stronger every day. Please keep praying for this ministry as we supply the pastor and now his son with Bibles and lessons to bring the lost to Jesus Christ and then help them to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. Thank you so much for your prayers.

## SON OF PASTOR ROBERTO NOW A PASTOR IN RANCHO VIEJO



**Courtney and Pastor Roberto**

After leaving Pastor Roberto we went on to Rancho Viejo to visit his son. The visit was a real blessing.

He has a church building on the highest hill in the village. The men of the church built the building, and it can be seen several miles away from the village. This church is growing and the Pastor is teaching his people using our lessons and Bibles.



**The church building  
in Rancho Viejo**

While we were there he told us that his services consist of his congregation plus about twenty-five school age children who usually show up and enjoy the singing and preaching. By the grace of the Lord we had with us several boxes of school supplies that we were able to give to him to pass on to the children. He told us that the people could not afford to buy the supplies their children need for school, so there would be many people hearing the Gospel because of the supplies. We are so blessed as a ministry in that every year a family in Arizona sends us boxes and boxes of notebooks, pencils, erasers, scissors, glue and pens. Members of this family are patients of Dr. Roberts and every fall they purchase tons of school supplies and leave them at Dr. Robert's office for us to take into Mexico. These supplies are a real blessing to the poor people to

whom we minister. Please pray for Roberto's son as he pastors this church.

## **NEW LESSON FORMAT IS VERY EFFECTIVE**



**The First Power Point Lesson in  
the Village of Seguro**

This past month we began using our new power point presentations in Seguro. For years one of the greatest difficulties we experience in teaching the Bible is that we normally have a huge span of levels of education within a class. It normally takes several minutes to get all the members of the class on the same verse, and then many are not able to read without special help. Using this power point presentation has made our teaching much more efficient. The page of the lesson is shown upon the wall along with the verse being studied. When the students determine the correct answer to the question the answer is highlighted and then moves to the answer line on the question. Those who have difficulty writing are then able to see the

answer in large letters on the power point screen.

This method has enabled us to teach many more people in less time. Please continue to pray for this project as many hours are required to develop these presentations.

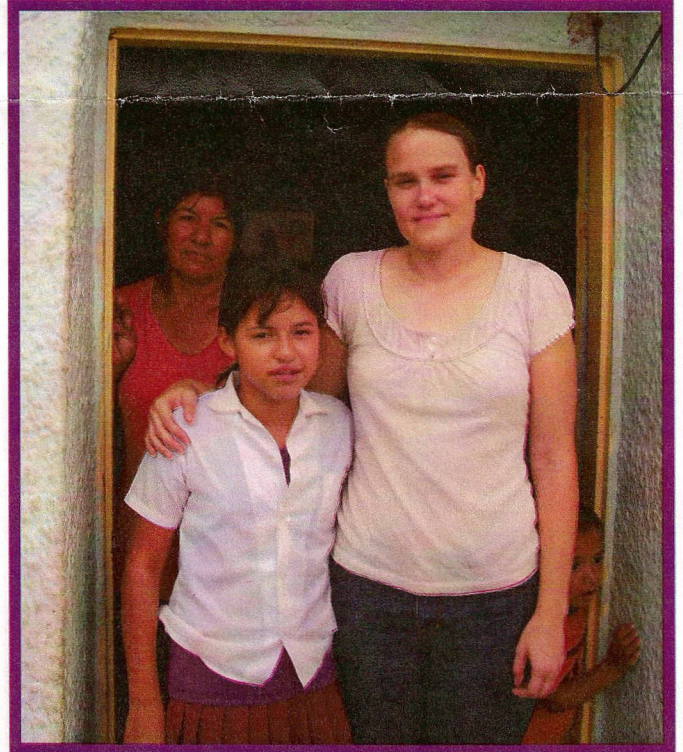
## **COURTNEY AND FAUSTINO NOW MINISTERING IN SONORA**



**Courtney and Faustino**

This past month Pat and I went to Montemorelos. We packed up the belongings of Courtney and Faustino, and we all made the trek across Mexico to their new home in Sonora. We have made our first medical trip, and it went great. We had planned to visit two villages, but while we were ministering in the first village a monsoon hit. We barely made it back to pavement. It was exciting to say the least and it was also a tremendous blessing. While Courtney sees patients Pat, Faustino and I give

Bibles to the people and present the Gospel. We are thankful to you for your prayers as we are constantly amazed at the openness of these people to receive Christ as Savior. Courtney was able to see several patients and really made a difference. On our initial trip to the village one of the families had a child named Yamalith who was very sick. At that time we had no medicine, but Courtney realized that the girl was pretty sick and needed to get to a hospital.



**Courtney and Yamalith**

The family responded, and when we returned the girl was totally recovered. As it turned out the girl had a severe kidney infection and responded very well to the medicine she received at the hospital. The family was very thankful since they did not know what to do. We have found that most people in that condition usually do nothing, and that can cause severe problems. This picture was taken two days after our first visit and as you can see Yamalith was

doing fine. As the ministry grows we will build up a supply of equipment and medicines. Courtney will be able to treat many patients on site rather than telling them it is necessary to get the patient to a hospital.

I mentioned a second village that we were not able to visit because of the monsoon. The name of the new village is Santa Rosalia and it has about 250 people. They appear to be very open and are looking forward to our first visit. Please pray for that visit which we plan to make in the next couple of weeks after the roads are passable.

## **AMBER SUPPLYING THE NEW HOSPITAL MINISTRY**



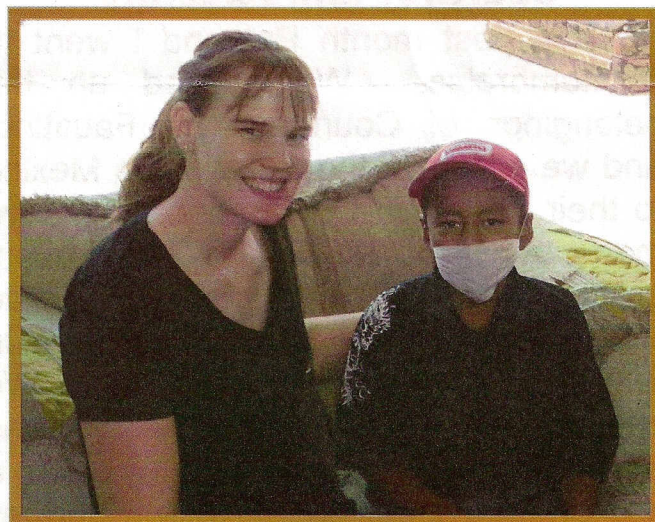
### **Please pray for Nicole**

The ministry that I shared last month that was developed by a lady that was led to the Lord by Amber is growing every month. Amber and Jose visited

with Margarita and supplied her with Bibles and lessons. What a privilege to witness her joy and happiness in the Lord! This ministry is a special blessing.

You may remember from past letters that Nicole, Amber's youngest daughter, has had a propensity to develop pneumonia. She has had to be hospitalized several times in Hermosillo. We all concluded that she needed to be treated in the United States. Courtney advised us that if Nicole was not aggressively treated in her early years her problems would develop into severe asthma that would stay with her the rest of her life. They still minister at the Hermosillo Hospital, but they do so on trips into Mexico which they take every other week. This also enables Amber to handle the ministry finances. That makes it possible for Pat and me to spend more time in the villages. Please pray for "Baby Nicki" that the Lord will heal the problems with her lungs so that they will develop normally.

## **NEW PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**



### **Amber to head new ministry**

Last month Pat and I made to trip to Montemorelos to help Courtney and Fausty move to Sonora. Montemorelos is in the middle of one of the areas of Mexico where the drug wars are very active. Over the years that Courtney has been in Medical School we have developed a way to get to her school without going through the Mexican cities of Nuevo Laredo and Monterey. These cities are plagued by violence, and we did not think it wise to pass through these cities on a regular basis. The route we developed takes several country roads that are not heavily traveled. About two weeks before we left Courtney called us and told us that one of the roads which we used to avoid the drug violence had literally been taken over by the drug runners. The police were not patrolling the area, because the drug runners were more heavily armed than the police. Courtney and Faustino had worked out a route that would be safe. It was complicated. To use this route would require them to meet us after we crossed the border and travel several miles into Mexico.

The day before we entered Mexico we stayed in a motel in Mission, Texas so we could make final arrangements for a time and a location where they would meet us. The motel had wireless so I communicated with Courtney via the internet. While I was on my computer I checked my e-mail account. I had a message from a dear lady who has prayed for our ministry for the past several years. She was asking if we had any special pray needs. I shared with her that we were going to be passing through a very dangerous part of Mexico and asked for her prayers. The trip went

very smoothly. Had we made that trip a week later we would have had to deal with bridge failures, a hurricane, refinery explosions, and several gun fights. The refinery that exploded was the exact place where Courtney and Faustino chose to meet us. There is not a doubt that this dear lady's prayers protected us through our 1,200 mile trip through Mexico. She e-mailed us and told us that she placed our prayer request on the desk top of her computer so every time she used her computer, it was there to remind her to pray for us. As you know, we are convinced that your prayers are the very back bone of our ministry. We are beginning a ministry in which Amber will send a weekly e-mail with specific request to those who pray for us. This will generate more effective prayer than our monthly letters. We are now in our seventeenth year on the field in Mexico. All those years of watching the Lord perform miracle after miracle has shown us the awesome power of God's answers to your prayers. We are so very blessed to have such brothers and sisters who love the Lord and pray for His work here in Mexico. If you want to participate in this ministry simply write us or e-mail us at [risfam@hotmail.com](mailto:risfam@hotmail.com) and Amber will send you a weekly e-mail as to what specific activities we will be doing during the next week. That way you can be praying for us while we are ministering. Amber is very excited at the opportunities of demonstrating the power of your prayers in the daily operations of ministering here in Mexico. Again simply e-mail us at [risfam@hotmail.com](mailto:risfam@hotmail.com) and Amber will send you a weekly prayer note.

## SUMMER TO TAKE NURSING BOARDS



### Summer requests your prayers

Summer will be taking the state board nursing exams in the coming weeks. As I have shared with you before her tuition at Grand Canyon University was paid for by the Tucson Medical Center. In return Summer agreed to work for them for three years. A couple of weeks ago she interviewed with the placement committee to determine where she would work at the medical center. She came home and told us that she thought the interview went pretty well, but she was asking for something that the medical center had never done. You see, Summer's passion is working with babies and children. When she first shared this with the committee they all shook their heads telling her it was impossible. There was a rule that new grads had never been recommended for the areas in which she would like to work. Before the interview ended the chief administrator of the hospital agreed to recommend her for the neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital. She warned Summer that the committee had never

recommended a new graduate before and she was leaving it up to the unit manager to make the decision. Summer just called me yesterday and shared with me that she has just received notification that she is being considered to be selected to work in the neonatal intensive care unit. I am not taking anything away from Summer's abilities as a nurse and her passion for what she is convinced the Lord wants her to do, but I am also convinced that your prayers were a major factor in her even being considered for selection. If Summer is selected, she will be the first new grad selected for this unit in the Tucson Medical Center. Thank you so much for your prayers.

## VACA IS NOW PRESENTING THE GOSPEL



### Grady and Vaca

In the past several weeks Vaca has made friends with several men in La Capilla. Many of these people have not been willing to study with us but are open to Vaca. He is now working with several men and has had several study sessions with them. Please pray that these men will be open to the love of Jesus Christ.