

The Fresno Herald

Stories from Stephen Custer, sent to preach the Good News in Fresno, Mexico

Queridos Amigos y Familia en Cristo,

Noviembre 2004



Blessings and peace to you from me and the Lord of Fresno, Mexico! I pray this letter finds you serving our great God in your corner of the world and eager to hear a little bit about mine. I am 5 months into my time here and it is starting to sink in that this is not just a mission trip. I want to tell you how God is at work: in me, in the team, and in the people of Fresno. He is coming back soon to gather His children, but until then He is helping them do the work that He called them to do. Here is a small look at the work He has called me to and how you can be a part of it.

So What Is It, You Would Say, You Actually Do There Anyway?

This is the question I hear most often, so I will attempt to answer it for you. No two ministry jobs are alike and no two missions are the same. However, like most ministries, my job is hardly ever the same day-to-day or week-to-week. I have written out below the most "normal" week I could put think of.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>CHURCH Music, Scripture, Teaching, Communion – I play piano for worship once a month and set up the altar twice a month.</p> <p>PRAYER WALKS We are working on a spiritual inventory of our neighborhood for more effective prayer and we walk while praying for specific needs.</p> <p>This evening is often relaxed: soccer with team members and kids or e-mail updates for supporters.</p>	<p>DAY OFF I DO NOTHING. Doing nothing on Mondays is something I am learning about. I usually read for awhile, take a bike ride, cook meals, play guitar, read some more, and do a little laundry.</p> <p>I think God was on to something with this Sabbath idea.</p>	<p>CLUB PLANNING Our Club team meets to plan future Clubs, discuss tomorrow's Club, and pray for the program.</p> <p>TEAM LUNCH A good time to connect with team members who work in other areas of our ministry.</p> <p>TEAM MEETING Getting everyone on the same page.</p> <p>PRAYER GROUPS I meet with three team members: we share requests and pray for each other.</p>	<p>A.M. KIDS CLUB We start setting up at 8:30 AM and the morning program starts at 10:00. It lasts about 75 minutes. We average 35 kids a week.</p> <p>CLUB VISIT During the break, I visit one of the boys from my morning class, playing games and reading with him.</p> <p>AFTERNOON CLUB It starts at 4:00 after a prayer meeting and averages 85 kids a week.</p> <p>Overall, we minister to 120 kids on an average day and 132 last week!</p>	<p>CHORE TIME Cleaning the ministry buildings, maintenance, odd jobs, etc.</p> <p>TEAM LUNCH This one's even more fun when celebrating a team member's birthday!</p> <p>ESMAT I start preparing for our tutoring program in the afternoon and our class starts at 6:45. I teach Spanish and Math skills to the 3rd and 4th graders – in Spanish!</p> <p>After cleanup & getting kids home, I head home around 9 PM.</p>	<p>OPEN MINISTRY DAY There is no normal Friday. This my day for taking our three vans to the car wash, updating Club attendance records, entering van mileage records in to the computer, visiting with Club kids, studying Spanish and having my Spanish lesson, and meeting my pastor Doug for accountability.</p> <p>WORSHIP TEAM PRACTICE for church on Sunday. (Once a month)</p>	<p>TORTA Every Saturday, [9 AM to 4 PM], we give away about 250 sandwiches and fruit to kids and youth.</p> <p>Twice a month, my job is to buy the food in the morning, set up the benches, and clean up the church afterwards.</p> <p>ESMAT PLANNING My team gathers to plan for next Thursday's program.</p>

Add to this making copies for various ministries, taking an inventory of our kitchen, paying the van parking space fee, talking to parents about how their kids are doing in school, taking pictures of the sunsets, planning team lunches, various other odd jobs and you have a better idea of what it is that I do here!