

SUAREZ UPDATE

|| "May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you." || Ps. 67 v 5 ||

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

- Safe & smooth travels
- Good health for us all
- A blessed and special time with family, friends and churches in Mexico
- SHINE CAFE
- THE CARPENTRY PROJECT
- THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING POINT, BELFAST

*Thank you for supporting us.
It means so much!*

*With much love,
Avisai, Judith & Eliab*

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CARPENTRY MINISTRY:

What an encouraging start! We have had 4 men coming along, 2 Iranians and 2 Syrians. They have all enjoyed the time together learning new skills and also developing friendships.

Please pray for Gary, Kenneth and Paul Swaffield (WEC) as they keep this ministry running while Avisai is away.

"The Wood Shed" a report from Gary

" ...'Salam Alaikum' ... It has been an enjoyable time getting to know the 3 regulars who come along to The Wood Shed each Tuesday. Two are from Iran and both mid 30's. It is fair to say they are both decent guys with a strong family background. It is evident as you spend more time with them they miss their home. Both really enjoy Tuesday's taking the train from Belfast, getting picked 9.15 and heading to WEC HQ, Scotch Street.

Both have a respect for elders which is a cultural thing which they to extend to 'Ken' in like manner! The third man (M) has been in Portadown for 7 years now having come from war torn Syria. His Dad died 3 years ago. He misses his Dad. As you spend more time with him he opens up more and more about his family and life. He's a remarkable man and again has a strong emphasis on family...also had a great sense of humour. He lives locally with his wife and 4 children.

It was touching when driving them back to the train last week to hear one of the men say in his broken English 'You are all very very good people '.

The hammering and sawing etc is what brings us all together, but it's having coffee and lunch together where the friendships develop. I know my eyes have been opened and stereotypes challenged with regards to the diversity within the Muslim world. Persians and Syrians are worlds apart in many many ways. It was touching to listen to 'M' explain that he is of Kurdish ethnicity, and the difficulties his family and people face because of that.

Hopefully the 3 men will continue their time with us...get to know us more...friendships will grow and ultimately to share our faith and hope in our God with them. "

Ministry Update: 'SHINE CAFE'

Shine started back on 13th January. I am so thankful to the wee Team who continue to run 'Shine' while I'm away in Mexico for 10 weeks. Please pray that God will work in amazing ways among the ladies who come. There will be a special 'Mums & kids' Cafe on 17th March so would appreciate your prayer for that especially.

MEXICO TRIP

Monday 23rd January - 4th April. If you are interested to 'follow' us, this is roughly what we hope to do:

First 1-2 weeks: We will base in Mexico City with Avisai's younger brother Itamar, to acclimatise and allow Eliab time to adjust to a new culture, country, people, food and so on. Mexico City is 2,240m (7,350 feet) altitude.

2nd February (approx): Fly to Chiapas state, Tuxtla Gutierrez. (521 miles south). Tuxtla Gutierrez is at 522m altitude.

Drive 4 hours up the mountains (74 miles) to Pueblo Nuevo town to stay with Avisai's mum and sister and older brother. (Plan to stay here for 2 weeks). Pueblo Nuevo is at 1,714m altitude, so we will drive over 1,000 m altitude in a few hours to meet Avisai's mother. The roads are very winding and the 2 times we drove up when we were last in Mexico Judith was sick, so pray that both she and Eliab will cope ok with the journey.

17/18 February: Fly back to Mexico City (again stay with Avisai's brother). From here visit 4 churches at the weekends, and also make a trip to the WEC HQ for a few days mid week. Avisai will need to renew his passport and local bank cards during this time. As well as that we will visit friends mid week. Avisai's mum will travel back to Mexico City with us so that she can have maximum time with us, especially Eliab and Avisai.

10th March (approx): Start 2 week road trip North, stopping at 4 churches.

1. Leon (approx 4 1/2 hours north). 237 miles.
2. Aguascalientes (1 & 1/2 hours north of Leon). 80 miles.
3. Saltillo (5 hours north of Aguascalientes). 300 miles
4. Ciudad Juarez (11 & 1/2 hours north of Saltillo). 678 miles. We may fly this journey rather than bus it.

24th March: fly back to Mexico City.

This leaves us with approximately one week in Mexico City to recover and have some time with Avisai's family again before flying back to Northern Ireland on Monday 3rd April (arriving home on 4th).

All these travel plans are dependent on Eliab (and all of us!) remaining healthy and being fit to do so much travelling. In total we will have covered more than 3,000 miles in our 10 weeks as we have to journey from Mexico City to the very south of the country and back to the City then right to the north border with the USA and back again to Mexico City.

We would also very much appreciate your prayers for safety on the roads, in public transport, and flights. Also for general safety as parts of Mexico can be dangerous. Above all our main aim is for Eliab and his Granny to have maximum time together and Avisai to be able to spend precious time with his mum and family. Please pray that this will be a very memorable visit for all of us.

Below is a map of Mexico with the places we will be visiting circled.

