

# The Simpsons Working with the People of Santa Ana

## Prayer Requests

- Pray for the students and ministry of the Mobile Bible Institute and Jon as he teaches.
- Pray for the Dating Couples and the Young Marrieds.
- Pray for God's work in the lives of the Sunday School teachers.
- Pray for a smooth process in renewing our residency.

## Upcoming Activities

- Finishing class on Corinthians
- Short-term Medical Team will be here June 20-27
- Development of two new classes for the MBI— 'Church Body Life' and 'Spiritual Warfare'



## God is Working in our Lives

As missionaries, we sometimes think that we have been sent here by God as grand messengers to this country we now call home. This week, we were invited to speak about being a missionary family and why we stayed when it gets tough. So, as Jon and I meditated and prepared, a thought came to mind. We are here out of obedience. Any message or word we have for the people of Santa Ana must come from God. We seek Him and learn to be quiet (not an easy thing for missionaries). God is always working in our lives and lately Jon and I have been ministering in a different way. We are learning to stand back a little and allow God to move in people's lives. Our natural tendency is to step in, help out, rebuke when needed. These are all good things when done in the Spirit and by His

moving. Lately, we feel God leading us to slow down, to push less, to allow people to be worked on and worked over by God. At the same time, He has been doing the same thing in our lives.

A woman that is in our Sunday School team had been struggling with her work schedule and not really showing up at church except for the Sundays when she had to teach. I felt lead by God to visit her. It was mostly a social visit but, while there, God gave me a few words about the importance of participating in church services as well as in Sunday School. Very politely, she explained to me her situation and we left it at that. Less than a week later she had a life-threatening situation happen to her. I didn't know about it until later.

She came to our Sunday School meeting and gave the testimony that God had protected her through this and, more than that, He had spoken to her and revealed that she was using work as an excuse to hide from Him. I had been praying for her since our visit and had been asking for wisdom to know what to do, but I never felt peace about doing something. God was already working; He gave me these words. Then, I stepped back and He worked in her life. It is about God's work in our lives and in the lives of those around us. It can never be about the work we do or the things we say. We must always remember to come to the Lord, our only source, and to seek His wisdom and trust in His work.

## Being a Part of His Work

These last two weeks have been busy. Last Monday, Jon started teaching Corinthians here in Santa Ana. This Monday, he had to suspend class as he was headed to San Salvador to teach "The Great Commandment". Tomorrow is his last class there and this Monday he starts Corinthians again. Also during the week, we have had the privilege to speak in both our kids' school devotionals. On Sunday, we met with our group of dating couples and later that day with our group of young marrieds. It is so rewarding to be a part of each meeting God brings our way. I attended a funeral this week. The lady that died was the mother of

one of our Sunday School teachers. She died in the US and was brought down here to be buried. With her came her two daughters. One of them is the mother of two of our youth here. They had not seen their mother in 17 years. I was able to be there, to hug these youth, to meet their mother and be a part of their experience. We thank God for the opportunity to serve Him daily and we thank you for your continued prayers and support on our behalf.

Trusting Daily in His Grace,

*Jon & Kelly*