

This morning, I took Lauren and Micah downtown to the immigration offices and we walked away at 11:00am with their carnets in hand. The carnet is their Peruvian residency card. All four of us have our carnets now, so our permanent residency process is complete, praise the Lord!

Our two main goals for the first couple of years have been to study Spanish and to connect with our local church here. I mentioned in an update in December that the Lord has led us to Gethsemane Baptist Church and we are very happy with God's leading in that direction. It's not a perfect church (as we were reminded of in a recent business meeting), but we have a good pastor with a real vision for the future, and there are good folks in the church who love the Lord.

Concerning Spanish study, Cheryl and I began classes three weeks ago. We have a Peruvian teacher named Zulema who meets with us four times a week. Cheryl spends 2 hours a day with her three days a week, and I have class once a week with her for two hours. We have been very pleased with her as a teacher. She has an excellent understanding of the Spanish grammar. One advantage for Cheryl is that the entire class is in Spanish since Zulema doesn't speak English with any fluency. When we first discussed taking Spanish classes with Zulema she was very complimentary of my ability in Spanish but was quick to add that I needed to be corrected in a number of things (which she's been doing often in the last three weeks).

Our plan is to focus this entire year, 2007, on studying Spanish and on ministering with our church. At the end of the year we will evaluate where we are Spanish-wise to consider if either Cheryl or I should continue with any study. Also, we will consider how much I should schedule out preaching for the coming year. I have accepted some preaching requests for this year. You can pray for me as I prepare to speak at a Professionals Camp in early March. In late March we have a group from Tennessee coming for 12 days and they will assist us in an evangelistic campaign we will be holding with a church here in Lima, Good News Baptist Church. Please pray for real spiritual fruit from those meetings.

At this point, we are waiting for the arrival of our third child. Her due date is February 15th. Please pray for strength for Cheryl as it has gotten increasingly difficult for her to do very much physically at this point. Basically, she's in the get-it-out stage.

There is one other thing on our hearts and minds right now. We have the use of the home we are in until May of this year, and then we need to have another place to live. At this point, we don't really know where God wants us to live. There are 2 or 3 neighborhoods that we are considering, including the neighborhood right around the church. A lot has to do with proximity to our church, and a lot has to do with security and the reality of Cheryl and the children being home during evenings and nights without me often. Please pray that God would make His direction clear and that we would seek nothing other than His best for us.

I invite those of you who pray for us to pray for one specific thing personally for us in the next few weeks: that God would give us daily encouragement and spiritual strength in Him (In meditation on His Word and by throughout-the-day communication with Him). I thank God for those of you who pray for us!