

Mark Hatch July Prayer Letter

Hello all!

I hope that this email finds you well.

Since my last update two months ago, there has been quite a bit going on that I am excited to share with you! Firstly, I was cleared to go back down to Tijuana for a month while still trying to reach my fundraising goal, which allowed me time for a sort of "soft start" for the ministry and to get to know them a little better before going down for good. I was really grateful for the time I got to spend both with the ministry and with old friends who I hadn't had the opportunity to see for almost a year. I wasn't quite sure what to expect going into the month, just because I didn't have a lot of time with my feet on the ground with Dunamis beforehand, but that allowed me to go down with a fresh perspective on what things would be like, which I found to be super helpful. Throughout the time, I was generously allowed to stay at the Caravan dorms, where I lived for a year beforehand, but with the freedom to go out and about to work the whole time with Dunamis.

The whole first month was a learning experience for me, and it came with its own handful of adventures. On the drive down, my radiator fan and motor began to go out, which led to all kinds of problems with overheating and having to blast hot air to keep the engine at a safe temperature, but even in that, God provided every step along the way, and I was able to get it fixed pretty quickly. As for the time working with Dunamis, it did end up being harder than I had imagined in some ways, but also so much more rewarding. I forgot how difficult it is to talk with kids in Spanish, and especially little kids, but in spite of this, it was still so fulfilling to work with them and play with them and start to build relationships with them, something that I look forward to continuing to do.

As quickly as it came, that first month was gone, and I was back in Washington, back to fundraising. Though it took a long time, by God's grace, I was able to reach the goal I set with ACTION, and they gave me the green light to come down to Tijuana for a more extended period. I started the drive to Tijuana on Wednesday, then arrived here on Thursday night. So far, it has been so good to be back, but it has already had its fair share of challenges. For starters, I started to come down with some kind of cold right before the drive, which has drained quite a bit of my energy over the last few days, but thankfully it didn't hinder the journey too much. Then yesterday (Friday), the transmission in my car started to fail, and it has been a process all yesterday evening and today getting it to a mechanic to identify the exact problem. As it is, I will likely not have my car for another week, but thankfully someone else here will be letting me use theirs for at least the next couple of days. Between those and various other things like getting stopped at secondary when crossing the border, I have come to feel pretty exhausted physically, but I have also been able to see God's hand working and protecting me in so many ways.

In this email, I haven't talked much about the work of Dunamis, but I am hoping to write more in the next email as I work with Dunamis more and get to know their ministry better. Until then, I would like to invite you to join me and support me in prayer in the following ways:

- Prayer requests

- Quick and inexpensive car repairs
- This cold that has been bugging me
- That I could effectively show the love of Jesus to everyone I interact with
- More than anything, that I would be overflowing with the kind of joy that can only be found in God's presence

- Praises

- I made it here safely
- It has been so clear that God has been with me this whole time and that He has been protecting me
- I have a car to use at least through Tuesday
- God has been reminding me more and more just how much I depend on Him every day

Thank you so much for sticking around to the end of this letter, and a huge thank you to those of you who have been praying for me and supporting me financially. I know that I have my feet on the ground here, but you are the ones who are driving this ministry, and I am so grateful for each one of you.

If you would like to read a little more about my work here, how I got here, or would like to support me financially in this ministry, check out my page on the ACTION International website at actionintl.org/hatch

Lastly, I want to leave you all with a verse that has been very encouraging to me these last couple of days, and I hope that it can encourage you too:

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

- **Isaiah 26:3**

Bendiciones,

Mark Hatch