

Good morning our fellow brother and sisters in Christ. We made it! We completed another wonderful school term at CEC. It has been quite a journey these last several months, with lots of ups and downs. There have been many blessings and wonderful things that have taken place, all in which were graciously and wonderfully orchestrated by our mighty God.

Here is a bit of a recap of our semester:

We started our school year with 13 students, coming from as close as Guaymas, Sonora, and as far as Honduras. Unfortunately, we had to say goodbye to two of those students as certain circumstances led to their departure. It is never an easy thing when students end up leaving our program, but we had peace amidst this and knew that this was a part of God's perfect will for those students and for the school. We were blessed to have six students graduate from our 1st year class and five from our 2nd year, with a total of eleven dear brothers graduating; some for the second time.

Starting in January, we were all entering into familiar territory, but yet it presented itself as a new experience, being a rather daunting one. This of course, was due to the fact that we no longer had Howard and Susan leading in the front lines of CEC, as they had faithfully done for the last 13 years. With their absence came great responsibility and many unforeseeable challenges. It was a season of learning, adaptability and humility. By God's grace and His immeasurable love for us as His children, and CEC being His ministry, He gave us the wisdom and resources that were necessary to continue on. We have an amazing team that stood together and helped fill in so many gaps that were left from Howard and Susan not being present. All of our staff went above and beyond this year, serving in love, with the student's spiritual well-being and God's glory in mind. We are so blessed to have the team we do and look forward to carrying on in this amazing quest God is sending us on. Was it a difficult year? Absolutely. Was it an encouraging year that brought much joy? Absolutely.

The Blessings: The blessings are really countless, as they should be, but to give a recap of the year, here some come mentionable highlights.

We had our Leadership team step up in so many areas to ensure the school semester flowed accordingly, taking on many more responsibilities than usual.

We had the privilege of taking on two new CEC staff, Jacob and Ingrid Friesen, from Winkler Manitoba. They were such a huge blessing to CEC as they went above and beyond in helping in a plethora of areas, namely in maintenance and upkeep of the school facilities, but equally investing in the lives of each student and staff.

God provided for CEC, ensuring that we had everything we needed to run and operate for another school year; whether it was food, utilities, covering wages, God provided!

God provided child care for our little girlies, as one of the staff wives took Noel and Macy under her wing.

We completed our first second year course this year.

There has been subtle, yet notable improvement in Howard's health. Howard and Susan were able to attend the graduation ceremony.

God guided and directed us in amazing ways this year, we could clearly see his Hand at work, not only in the lives of the students, but us as staff. We were (still are) kneeling before the mercy of our Lord, knowing that all of this is possible through Him.

We graduated 11 students that not only grew in their knowledge of the word of God, but grew in their love for Jesus. The testimony of their time at CEC is so encouraging, once again, pointing to the transforming power of the Gospel taking root in lives. There is an obvious hunger to serve Christ in their churches and communities. Lives were changed as the Holy Spirit, with the wonderful Word of God, collided head on in the lives of these students; molding and shaping them to become more like Jesus.

...Here are a few testimonies of our student's time at CEC...

Abraham (2nd Year) – “I have had a encounter with Jesus and my faith. Before coming to CEC, I was afraid to give over my whole life to Christ, to say ‘here am I’, no matter the consequences. I was afraid of the possibilities. It might be hard or difficult where God calls me. I might have to suffer. But now, after going through another year at CEC, I have come to place in my life where now I can say, ‘God I will seek to do your will and not mine’”.

Adan (2nd Year) – “Anyone can counsel someone, but not everyone gives a good counsel. In the class of Biblical Counseling, I learned how to look in the Word of God for wisdom and how better to give a good counsel. I feel like I am better prepared and know how to help people more when I need to guide and direct them, always leading them with the Word of God.

Rafael (1st Year) – “Before coming to CEC, my view of evangelism was that it was only for evangelists, preachers and missionaries. But through time at CEC I have come to understand that living out the Gospel and proclaiming it, is a way of living for every Christian. I have been prepared and equipped to do this and want to return to Honduras to reach my family and community for Christ.

The Challenges:

With Katie and I stepping in for Howard and Susan, there were a lot of unknowns of how certain things were done. Howard's illness came so suddenly, there was very little time for him to “pass on the baton”. This restricted us from knowing exactly everything he did. There were lots of gaps to fill in. Many areas we needed to learn. Katie and I took on many more responsibility's than usual, which meant being all the busier.

Juggling our new roles with family was a challenge in itself, as we navigated the uncharted waters of being directors as well as parents.

Being in leadership meant proper and precise communication. This was a challenge for us, me specifically, as it stretched my knowledge of the Spanish language. Not only needing to

communicate things properly, but also listening and understanding things of importance that arouse.

With all the newly added reasonability's and the level of my ability to communicate, it was decided among myself and the leadership team, it was best I not teach this year. This was discouraging in the moment, but quickly understood as a wise choice, as my focus needed to be given in other areas of importance.

The weight of Howard's condition and the impact it has had on family, staff, and many more, was evident throughout the year. There were some rocky patches along the way, but we praise God for His faithfulness through it all.

The Family:

The girls are growing so fast! Noel will be four on June 17th and Macy will be two on June 25th. They are such little blessings and we're blown away with how fast they learn and what they can comprehend. Noel spent most mornings during the school year with a woman named Carmen and her two kids, Ruby and Caleb. Carmen is on staff with her husband Guillermo. During their morning together, Noel would play with Caleb, who is nine, and they would do all sorts of fun things together. Whether it was crafts, games, riding scooters, singing songs; they did it all... and it was all in Spanish! Neither Carmen, Guillermo, or their kids speak English, so it was a great learning experience for our little Noelle. She learned quite a bit of Spanish in these past few months. It is so neat listening to her communicate with Caleb and to her Auntie Carmen in Spanish. Soon Noel and Macy will be teaching me new words!

Macy is growing up fast too. She isn't speaking full sentences quite yet, but her word bank is growing every day and it's so fun to listen to her try and talk (still lots of gibberish). Noel will be enrolling in preschool in September here in San Carlos, which will further her ability to be bilingual, as this school has no English.

Our little girls are developing such unique personalities which is a joy to watch and observe. It's fun seeing similarities between both Katie and myself in them too. Noel is strong-willed and independent. She is not shy at all and will start talking with people and making friends on a dime. She is our little social butterfly; definitely not like how I was when I was her age. She loves bugs, rocks, drawing, and chocolate. All interests and likes that somehow don't seem too foreign to me. Macy is a little more dependent than her older sister. She loves to sing like her mommy, play outside, wrestle with daddy, and get into absolutely everything! Macy is happy and lights up the room with her smile! Her cuteness is irresistible. They are a joy and we love them dearly and had so much fun watching them interact with the staff and students. They miss all the Aunties and Uncles that they saw every day for the past three and a half months!

Katie and I are doing well, though we're tired! We continue to have much work to do, but we're thankful for this ministry and the path God has placed before us. We want to thank you for your support; whether it's encouraging us in words, praying faithfully, or in the monetary, THANK YOU! We could not be here and could not be doing what we're doing without you!

We are very excited for a trip up north. We plan to head north from Mexico the beginning of July and look forward to catching up with some of you! Also, Katie will be sending a detailed update on Howards condition in the next week or so.

Prayer Items:

Wisdom and patience as we raise our little girls!

Continued wisdom and direction with our new roles as interim directors.

Clarity on how this year will look in the absence of Howard and Susan.

Healing for Howard. Physical, emotional, and spiritual nourishment for Susan.

Continued safety in all aspects: crime, weather, buggas!

For our students as they return home; that they will be light in the darkness, win many for Christ, and disciple more Christ centred missionaries.

That CEC may continue (through all of those who are involved in this wonderful ministry), to bring God glory.

Many blessing on you dear brothers and sisters and may Jesus continue to be the chief aim of your life, the grand prize, the great treasure. The center of your heart's affection!

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word". – Thessalonians 2:16-17