MISSIONARY TYLER YATES SERVING IN THE COLUMN THE

I had the privilege of preaching at 4 different churches. I was able to visit some cities that I have been praying about. One of the pastors that I met, who is in Valladolid, Yucatan, offered to help me once I am finally down there. I was also able to meet with a pastor friend from Texas who was there on sabbatical. I had the opportunity to witness to a dentist who helps in our medical brigades. This trip showed me that there is a lot of work to be done. The Maya people are very closed off to anything other than Catholicism. We not only are facing Catholicism but many other denominations as well. There is a town there that is mostly Seventh Day Adventist. I also learned how much focus the Mormon church has down there. The Mormon church claims that the Maya people wrote the Book of Mormon, so they have a lot of Mormon missionaries there. July was much needed considering what happened in June. I enjoyed my time in getting away and seeing the people once again.

Right after I returned, I left for Washington state. That was also a great blessing to me. I was in Washington for about 3 weeks. I had never been to Washington, so it was all new to me, but, of course, there is no state like Texas; however, Washington was quite beautiful. The churches there were very kind to me. I visited 9 different churches. I also went to Portland, Oregon while I was there to visit a church. My time in Portland really touched my heart. I saw the need for the Gospel. It grieves my heart to see my country this way, but the Lord has called me to Mexico. This means that the churches who are reading this have the mission to take the Gospel to the rest of America. I know this may be read and heard by many, so I want to encourage anyone who reads this to get settled with God and start living for Him. America needs more men and women who are willing to let go of the world and look unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith.

I finally returned to my home base in Fort Worth, Texas. I have many churches still to visit and many who I've yet to get in contact with. Once I returned home, I told my pastor I wanted to start doing what I could at church even if I wasn't always there due to visiting churches. Others on staff seemed excited about doing more in outreach and discipleship; but then we hit a few bumps on the road. After preaching at a church the Sunday after I returned from Washington, I got word that my pastor's oldest boy, Diego, who is 16, went out to help move a trailer from the parking lot at church. It was Sunday before service, so the trailer had to be moved. He was directing my pastor to bring the truck closer to the trailer. He then was trying to prepare the hitch to fall onto the ball of the truck. In doing so, he stuck his finger between the hitch and the ball to prepare the hitch but the trailer fell onto the ball, catching his index finger between the trailer hitch and the ball. He pulled his finger out, but the trailer tore the top part of his finger off. He was rushed to the ER where they tried to stitch the piece back but are not certain it will stick. He went through a lot of physical pain having to deal with that. Then, the day after that, my pastor's nephew, Nahum, who is 24 years old and on staff at church, was working on a 2nd story roof. He was going to climb down but missed stepped and fell to the ground on his back. They took him to the ER where they found that he fractured a cervical. They had to do an emergency surgery to relieve the pressure on his spinal cord. A week after that, they had to do another surgery to reinforce his neck. His is still in the hospital, as of the time of this letter being written, and has a long road to recovery, but the doctors have hope that he will recover to how he was before the accident.

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