

Cossletter

~ **Special Edition** ~

March 2016

Dear friends,

Many of you will have seen our video announcing our latest news on our website - www.thecossletts.com. For those that don't have that possibility, and to ensure clarity, we have written a letter to accompany the message.

We firstly want to thank you so much for all your prayers and support over the last few months and years. We are so blessed to count on such a huge team of committed people.

In our last Cossletter we mentioned that Steve was taking a break from his role as field director and was on 'leave of absence' after a particularly busy and stressful year, which had led to him showing signs of burn out, ultimately affecting his physical health, the health of our family & the team here in Mexico. Part of the reason for this stress was that the role Steve was doing had evolved so much since the time Steve took up the position in 2013. Instead of a visionary leadership role it has become more focussed on administration, with a lot of time spent doing financial and legal work. This type of role really doesn't fit in with Steve's gifting and so after discussions with OMS about possibly returning to the role, it was decided by us and OMS that Steve would not return to the position of field director.

Since taking this leave of absence, Steve has felt God leading us back to our original calling - which was with MEFI. However, MEFI is now at a place where we have 'worked ourselves out of a job', which is always what we intended to do, and although we feel God is calling us to continue to support and advocate for MEFI, we have sensed that God is closing the door for us living and working here in Mexico full time.

So after much discussion with various key people, we have come to a decision to return to the UK at the end of May. We hope to continue with OMS and MEFI for the time being and our continued involvement with MEFI is something that we will be discussing more with OMS in the coming months. For those of you who are supporting us in prayer and by giving financially we would value your continued support for the time being until we can clarify what the next step is. We hope to be able to update you soon after our return.

During this difficult time we are however giving thanks to God for all that He has done in and through the ministry with the street young people since Helen first came out to Mexico 18 years ago.

- The ministry partnered with OMS in 2004, was named MEFI in the same year, the drop-in centre was opened in 2009 (just before we left the UK to come back to Mexico as a family), and the team has grown from just one man and a missionary, to 7 workers including a Mexican director. God has provided faithfully for the ministry, and although it was close to being shut down at one point because of lack of funding, it now has a regular income from a charity shop, a few churches and many individuals and couples. This regular income makes up about 70% of the funding now. Of course one of the main things we give thanks to God for is the number of young people that have come in to God's family and have been baptised and left the streets. We have been privileged to follow up and disciple some of these young people, some of them whom you have met through our blog posts.
- One of the verses God gave Helen when she left Mexico in 2005 was from 1 Corinthians 3:6 where Paul says 'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow'. We believe, that although we and others have been privileged to be used in this ministry for a season, ultimately it is God who has made it grow and will continue to make it grow and flourish.
- As mentioned above, we felt God was calling Steve to take on the role of field director for a season, and God was able to use him in many ways in that role. First, in helping to stabilise MEFI and appoint and train up a Mexican director. Then to supervise a church plant and train and appoint a pastor for that church. And finally to help the national church denomination - UNIFAM - through a difficult transition to becoming independent from OMS (who planted the denomination 25 years ago).

We want to be honest with you and share how our hearts are heavy at leaving home here in Mexico as well as leaving so many people who we have come to love and cherish. However, we know that God will carry us through the next few months, and we are trusting that God will guide us to what the next chapter is for us. It is going to be a hard few months of transition for us all, and your prayers are really needed during this time. We thank God for His faithfulness in the past, present and future, to us, and to you all as well.

We look forward to seeing many of you later on this year.

Steve and Helen