



VIRTUAL – ARTIFICIAL - FAKE

Seriously. Is there any better illustration of the days in which we live than the trend of **fake weddings**?!

Yes, if you haven't heard of them, they're a trend. It seems that people are longing to celebrate love and commitment and true community – but who believes in those anymore? So you can have a fake wedding in which no one actually gets married. Or, you can have a real wedding with fake guests – invitees who are perfect strangers but pay to come to the party.

Are you fed up with the virtual – the artificial – the fake? No, the Christian life isn't an easy life. And maybe you can avoid some of the problems of real life if you just pretend. But let's hear it for true community – faithfulness – love! And the only way we can truly celebrate is knowing the One who *is* love and who is *always* faithful. True love, true hope, and true joy all meet in Him. Just look at what He has done for us!



Only fear Yahweh

**and serve Him in truth with all your heart;
for see what great things He has done for you!**

1 Samuel 12:24

ACTORS

So there we are (above) – a bunch of actors from our church! We drove out of Ixtapaluca into Iztapalapa (yes, you read right) to join another church for their kids' club closing program! Our friend Naomi from our church wrote the drama based around the theme, Esther made the costumes – everyone pitched in. The gospel was shared through the drama, and some object lessons, and through some songs we taught. We even had the opportunity to join our sister church for some street evangelism. What a blessing to share the truth together!

Baptisms

In July we joined a sister church here in Ixtapaluca for a baptismal service! We were thankful to see a young man from our church baptized, and several more from the community in Jesús María. One of the women who was baptized was someone we had had Bible studies with many years ago. How exciting to see how God is working over time!



Meditating on Resurrection

This year we've mourned the loss of a close friend of Jim's family, as well as one of his cousins who recently passed away suddenly. We appreciate your prayers for these families. This leads us to meditate more on the coming resurrection of those who belong to Christ.

Jim preached on Resurrection Sunday, and also recently preached through 1 Corinthians 15. What a joy to be reminded that, for the believer, **death no longer has the victory!** *"thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."* (1Co 15:57-58)

♪ Notes of Prayer and Praise ♪

♪ Praise the Lord for opportunities to share the gospel, and the involvement of so many from the church!

♪ Please pray that new leaders would be raised up in the church as discipleship continues.

♪ Please pray that God would provide a permanent place for the church to meet, and for the funds needed.

♪ Please continue to pray for Hannah and Nathanael, that their life decisions would glorify the Lord.

♪ Please continue to pray for our health.

♪ Please pray for unity and healing in our church, as we face many new challenges.

Unexpected Changes

Our church has been going through a number of painful challenges over the past few months.

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Due to this and some other related and unrelated situations, this has been one of our most difficult seasons of ministry and change. This is no "virtual" life! But as you can see hints of in this letter, we are encouraged to see God working through it all!

Visiting Canada

Lord willing we'll be visiting Canada for a few weeks starting in mid-October. We'll be mostly in Alberta this time, combining ministry with visiting family, plus paperwork and other practical matters. We'll try to keep our website updated with our schedule, once we're a more organized! We would love to see you!



Teaching, Training and Discipleship

As usual we've been involved in teaching and training times, with the goal of equipping the saints for the ministry (Eph 4:12). Shari has been helping with the teaching in the **children's Sunday school**. As a part of their series through the whole Bible, they're currently working through the life of Christ, and working on special evangelistic lessons.

Jim completed a series of **keyboard classes** and a **worship music Bible study** with the music team. Now he's teaching some of the **men's Bible studies**. On **Sunday mornings**, we finished preaching through 1 Corinthians, and are continuing with Deuteronomy and 1 Peter.

Grace & Peace,
Jim & Shari

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