

## THE CAMPSITES OF CROSSROADS

February 4, 2007

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La Paz, Mexico

**Recap of last week's sermon "Standing on the Threshold."**

**SCRIPTURE SLIDES: Read Numbers 33:1-6**

This week we're going to look at the places God has led the English-Speaking Christians of La Paz. All the different campsites that God has called us to. And various people are going to help me tell the story this morning. As you hear this story unfold, I want you to listen closely to how God has been at work, is at work, and will be at work through this ministry in La Paz.

Let's begin the story . . .

**SLIDE #1:** Here are the stages in the journey of the English-Speaking Christians who came to La Paz.

**SLIDE #2:** English-Speaking Christian sailed from Canada, the United States, Europe and other various ports from around the world and camped at the Marinas of La Paz.

**SLIDE #3:** Marina

**SLIDE #4:** The English-Speaking Christians left the Marinas of La Paz and camped at the cross on El Magote.

**SLIDE #5:** El Magote

Milton and Susu were some of the people who met at the cross on El Magote to worship. I've asked if they would come and share a memory of this camp site.

**(Milton Shares)**

Let's continue the journey . . .

**SLIDE #6:** The English-Speaking Christians left the cross at El Magote and camped at the First Baptist Church of La Paz.

**SLIDE #7:** First Baptist Church of La Paz

The ministry moved to the First Baptist Church under the direction of Missionaries Buddy and Lois Woodson who were Southern Baptist. The Woodsons ministered in La Paz for a year. Elaine Kerr is going to come and share a memory of this camp site.

**(Elaine Shares)**

Let's continue the journey . . .

**SLIDE #8:** The English-Speaking Christians left the First Baptist Church of La Paz and camped at the home of Missionaries David and Joyce Reed on Sonora Drive.

David and I moved to La Paz in 2000. While we lived at this house, we began a ministry to English-Speaking people.

**SLIDE #9:** We held Bible studies in our home.

**SLIDE #10:** We held fellowship events in our home.

**SLIDE #11:** The First Women's Christmas Tea was organized. These women were the first planning committee.

**SLIDE #12:** We held an Easter Worship service at the Malecon.

**SLIDE #13:** But to be honest, this wasn't a ministry we had envisioned starting when we came to La Paz. David is going to share with you how God pulled us into this vision.

**(David Shares)**

Let's continue the journey . . .

**SLIDE #14:** The English-Speaking Christians left the home of Missionaries David and Joyce Reed on Sonora and camped at their new home on Benito Juarez.

**SLIDE #15:** This was our home on Benito Juarez.

**SLIDE #16:** We held the first Worship Service there in September 2001.

**SLIDE #17:** The worship area was our dining room area which we cleared out each week. We had an overhead projector that placed the words to the songs on the wall.

**SLIDE #18:** Coffee Hour was set up on our Kitchen Island.

**SLIDE #19:** This was where we first met Michelle, who was adopted by Milton and Susu Sanders.

**SLIDE #20:** Milton learned to play his woodwind synthesizer.

**SLIDE #21:** Fidel and Eileen celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary while we were at Benito Juarez. They're going to come and share some of their memories from this camp site.

**(Fidel and Eileen Share)**

Let's continue with the journey . . .

**SLIDE #23:** The English-Speaking Christians left David and Joyce's home on Benito Juarez and camped at the Agruel store-front on Prieto.

**SLIDE #24:** In May 2003 our family was preparing for our first U.S. assignment which is when we go back to the states for a year to share with our supporting churches. We knew that the church had to find a new location because the home on Benito Juarez was rented, and would soon be sold. We looked at various properties. But they either were the wrong type of building, too far from the waterfront, or the rent was out of site. Just weeks before we departed, God answered our prayer with the Prieto Location. The building was owned by the Agruels, members of First Baptist Church, who own a papeleria in town. They offered this empty storefront for one year, rent-free! God is so amazing!

**SLIDE #25:** David and I were able to worship there our last Sunday before we moved to the states. It was a wonderful send-off! And we never had a moment's doubt that God would lead this faithful community in our absence.

**SLIDE #26:** Ruben & Carolina have been part of the English Worship Services from the very beginning. They were the liaison between our mission and First Baptist Church. It was Carolina's parents who owned the store-front. She is going to come and share about the Prieto camp site.

**(Carolina shares)**

Let's continue the journey . . .

**SLIDE #27:** The English-Speaking Christians left the Agruel store-front on Prieto and camped at 3124 Abasolo.

**SLIDE #28:** At the Abasolo camp the community of English-Speaking Christians became known as CrossRoads Christian Fellowship.

**SLIDE #29:** The property where we are seated today was acquired by Milton and Susu in the spring of 2004. There used to be two small houses on these two lots that were immediately knocked down. On one site, the house next door was built. This is where we live today. On this site, a worship service began to be built. The first worship service held here was on Mother's Day of 2004. There was no roof. Only partial walls remaining of the original buildings. And some slabs of old cement floor.

The building has slowly transformed over the last 2 ½ years to what you see today. But a church is not a building, it's a group of people. Crossroads Christian Fellowship is the group of people sitting around you. People who have a heart for Jesus. Jenny and Erle joined our community a year ago. I've asked them to come and share about their experience at this Abasolo camp site.

**(Jenny and Erle share)**

I'd like to invite you now to view some pictures of what's happened at Crossroads over the last several years. To remind of us how God has been shaping us, refining us, drawing us together as a community of faith.

**CROSSROADS HISTORY SLIDE SHOW with music GRACE LIKE RAIN.**

**Closing Remarks after Slide Show:**

Crossroads is part of God's Kingdom story. People have come. People have gone. Some people are still here! But what we always have in common is Jesus. Jesus is what holds us together, binds us together.

In Numbers 33, Israel reviewed her campsites as she prepared to enter the Promised Land. This was her hope and promised from God.

When Jesus came, however, he told his believers that the Kingdom of God is no longer a physical place, but that the Kingdom of God is within you. It's a spiritual place. A place where you worship in Spirit and in Truth.

And so this morning, we the community of English-Speaking Christians in La Paz review our campsites in order to realize that God is using us, is working through us, to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. Our Promised Land is the spiritual transformation of people reconnecting with God, and with the body of Christ, his church.

Carolina said it so beautifully: This church has something. I don't know what, that makes you feel at home. Thinking twice, I think it is love.

Love. The beautiful, redeeming, unconditional love of God. The thread that weaves Milton and Susu, to Elaine, to David, to Fidel & Eileen, to Carolina, to Erle & Jenny, to all the rest of you sitting here this morning.

We are going to close our service this morning by celebrating communion together. We are going to celebrate God's love for us through the sacrifice and resurrection of his son Jesus. I invite you to prepare your hearts as we sing AT THE CROSS.