

Sacbe: The Connecting Road

Sacbe, (pronounced sock bay, literally "white way") are the remains of the ancient Maya roads that interconnected the peninsula centuries ago. These white limestone routes, some stretching up to almost 200 miles in length, served as a way to link various Maya city-states culturally, economically, and even spiritually. As testimony to their lasting significance, some have even been incorporated into modern routes of transportation. The picture in this article shows our good friend, Daniel, and I walking the remains of the Uxmal-Kabah Sacbe.



As we continue our itineration here in the U.S., we like to think of ourselves as traveling our own sacbe. Although not planned and constructed by the Maya, we find ourselves following a route connecting

the people that we serve in the Yucatán culturally and spiritually with churches and individuals like yourselves.

If you've heard us share during these last six months, we hope that you have been drawn closer to the

Mexican people that make their home in this region. We hope that you have appreciated their history and the current challenges that they face. More than this, we hope that you have been motivated toward unity with them as we seek to return with the only lasting solution to their challenges—new life and continued discipleship in Jesus Christ.

During our remaining months in the U.S., our sacbe will continue to extend. We pray you'll join us in an increasing role as we continue this interconnecting journey.

Marathon for Mexico: The Report

"Most of us collapse at the first grip of pain. We sit down at the door of God's purpose and enter a slow death through self-pity. And all the so-called Christian sympathy of others helps us to our deathbed. But God will not. He comes with the grip of the pierced hand of His Son, as if to say, 'Enter into fellowship with Me; arise and shine.'"

Those were the words of the Oswald Chambers devotional for November 1st, the morning of the Marathon for Mexico. They were significant words, and, while I didn't look forward to the pain the day's run would bring, I knew that this lesson in perseverance would bring us closer to our goal of returning to Mexico. I knew as well that the



26.2 mile journey would bring significant personal growth.

The prerace jitters had gotten me out of bed early, and with the preliminaries out of the way, I found myself at the starting line at 7:00 AM, ready to run. The gun went off, and a sea of humanity brushed past me.

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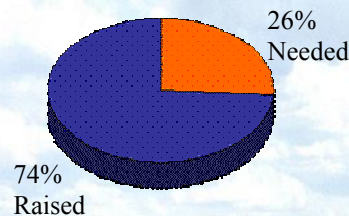
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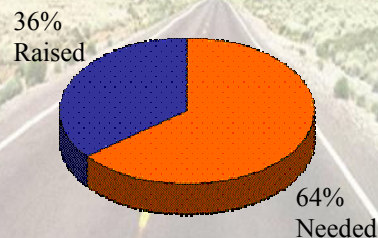
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relate

For Rebekah, Joseph, and Jonathan, this time in the States has required some acclimation. Gone are the days of heading out the door in shorts and a t-shirt. However, they look forward to seeing family and snow in PA this Christmas.



They'll have a respite from the cold over the New Year, though, as they gather together with other missionary kids for their regional retreat in Orlando, Florida.

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"Steady, Dave," I told myself, "there is a lot of race yet to go."

I took the first ten miles fairly easy, soaking in the experience and enjoying several greetings from Kelly and the kids along the way. The second ten were more determined. I kept my mind on my pacing reminding myself of my goal, both during this day and in the coming year. Finishing this second stage, I moved into the final 6.2 miles of the race. During this grueling final push, water across the course, my aching legs, and my worn body succeeded in slowing me down, but I was certainly not out! After a seemingly endless series of twists and turns on the course, I could hear the sounds of a crowd; I was finishing!

I finished the Bass Pro Marathon in 3:37:52, my best time ever. More importantly, several of you agreed to sponsor the miles I ran, helping us raise over \$2,200. It was painful. In fact, I'm still recovering. I haven't yet been able to run since the event, but in it I've realized what we can accomplish when, in partnership with God and others, we persevere until the finish!

Where can you find us in the months of December, January, and February?

12/2	New Hope A/G Seligman, MO	1/24	Berryman A/G Berryman, MO Vulcan A/G Vulcan, MO	2/20	Missions Banquet Washington, MO
12/6	First A/G Dexter, MO First A/G Thayer, MO	1/27- 1/29	ACLAME Leadership Team Meeting Ft. Lauderdale, Florida	2/21	First A/G Washington, MO New Hope Fellowship Fenton, MO
12/13	First A/G Saint Robert, MO Hartville A/G Hartville, MO	1/31	First A/G Carl Junction, MO Faith A/G Joplin, MO	2/22	Sectional Council Cape Girardeau Sec. Sectional Council Kennett Section
12/18- 12/26	Christmas Vacation	2/3	Harvest Christian Centre Park Hills, MO	2/23	Sectional Council Park Hills Section Sectional Council St. Louis Section
12/28- 1/1	Latin America/Caribbean Missionary Retreat Orlando, Florida	2/7	First A/G Perryville, MO Des Arc A/G Des Arc, MO	2/24	MIDWEEK SERVICE AVAILABLE
1/13	Highway A/G Brighton, MO	2/10	MIDWEEK SERVICE AVAILABLE	2/25	Sectional Council Sullivan Section Sectional Council Sedalia Section
1/17	Eminence A/G Eminence, MO Roby A/G Roby, MO	2/14	Calvary A/G Rolla, MO First A/G Steeleville, MO	2/26	Sectional Council Clinton Section Sectional Council Joplin Section
1/20	First A/G Potosi, MO	2/16	Sectional Council Kansas City Section	2/28	First A/G Poplar Bluff, MO Doniphan A/G Doniphan, MO
		2/18	Central A/G Independence, MO		We are looking forward to our services with you!