



THE SHAW FAMILY IN MEXICO

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Greetings from Beanland;

I appreciate your faithfulness to this entire ministry. You are a great and wonderful blessing to us. I am supposing that all of you are enjoying nice sun shinny weather. Of course, we are in our rainy season and will be until the last of August. It rains every day and sometimes twice and quite often big hail is mixed in all of it.

Delia and I are still working extra long hours as I continue to pastor the two churches. The troubled church, the one we took over in March, continues to have its problems but we do see some improvement. I put a stop to any spending just so that they could pay the bills. We are making progress in that area but I have just found out that they owe more money than what I had first thought. We have been visiting new people in that area but have been afraid to invite them to the church and get them involved in such a mess. I do have one new family attending but see that I have to continue working on improvement of attitudes of the church members before inviting others. Please just keep praying that we can get this church turned in the right direction.

Graduation this year was different, we only graduated three students from the college and two of them were Huichol Indians. I was beginning to think that the only people who were going to attend were Delia, myself, some students and the Huicholes who came to see the graduation, about 20 people ia all. About one hour before the graduation, the rainy season began. It rained for fourty five minutes with high winds, thunder, lightening and big balls of hail. Water roared down the streets like a raging river. There were traffic jams, thousands of cars drowned out, and hundreds were under water. After waiting one and one half hours, all but seven of the students arrived as did the teachers and the chosen speaker. We finally had about 85-90 people in attendance, which was our all time low. Everything turned out great and the Indians were especially proud of their graduates. Twelve of them came to see and participate in the graduation. We had them sing Christian hymns in the Huichol language. It was the first time most of the people had the opportunity to hear Christian Huicholes testify and sing.

From our work in the southern part of Mexico we have this news from Crescencio and Liliana: Crescencio writes: We are graduating 12 Mayan Indians, almost all of the men graduates are already pastoring. There was one young man who I thought would never make it. He would not raise his head to look at me, he was so bashful he wouldn't talk to anyone. I thought he might stay in school about two weeks. That was three years ago. He now heads up the youth in his church, he has a childrens Sunday school class, directs the singing for the church and even preaches. The Lord has done a good work in this young Mayan Indian. I also baptized 12 people in the new work I

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

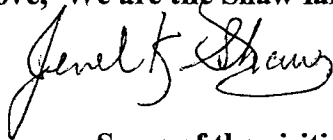
Titus 3:5

have begun. We all went to the ocean with another church and baptized 25 new Christians. We have named our new work, "Strong Tower Baptist Church."

Liliana Sarmiento reports: Brother Jerry, we just baptized 13 Christian Mayan Indians in my church, "The Sower Baptist Church." They were all teenagers and a few in their 20s'. I had the privilege of leading almost all of them to the Lord and teaching them in the new converts class. We joined with brother Crescencios church in the baptismal. He baptized his people and my pastor baptized those in our church. I don't think that I have ever seen so many people baptized at one time. With all the preaching and singing, it was wonderful! We are graduating 12 this year. Another young man was going to graduate but at the last minute decided to wait another year so he can have some more studies. I think my father is planning to give me a surprise visit and be here for the graduation.

In the northern part of Mexico, Joel Ramirez, called to say that they will have eight students finishing the year and asked for more books so they can continue studying throughout the summer months. He reports that his church has grown throughout the year.

In the circumference of His matchless love, We are the Shaw family thanking you for helping to make this ministry possible.



The three graduates



Some of the visiting Huicholes

