



Jerrel & Delia Shaw

Missionaries to Mexico



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Greetings from Beanland!

I hope you are looking forward to some beautiful Spring weather. I think someone turned the furnace on here as it is really beginning to get hot, and it will only get hotter. Already it is hot enough that everyone looks for some shade in which to park their car. If it is not parked in some shade, it is like getting into an oven. It does kind of look funny to see 15 cars parked under a poor little 10-foot tree whose trunk is about three inches around and has as many as two dozen leaves on it. I am seeing a lot of watermelons for sale and it is also time for the strawberries.

Our graduation this year will be the 18th of May. The graduation in Cancun will be the 25th of May, that one will be our largest graduating class since the inception of the school in that area. We will have 15 graduates there and another two here in Guadalajara.

In February, I took the money we collected during the conference to the state of Nayarit, and gave it to the Huichol (we-chol) pastor so he could put a roof on his church. If you recall from my last letter, they have been meeting for three years in a building without a roof, in all kinds of weather. Sometimes, the heat reaches 115 degrees in the summertime. I can tell you he was a very happy Christian pastor.

I also learned something interesting while in that area. In my last letter, I told you we purchased a generator for a Indian church located up in the mountains where there are no roads. They meet in a stick building but have made several thousand bricks with the hope of building a better church. Bethel Baptist Church of Greenfield, Indiana, gave them money for sand, mortar, and cement but I had no idea what they have to do to construct the building.

Would you build a church?

None of the materials needed to build the church can be found anywhere near the mountain where the Indians live. The following is what they have to do in order to build their brick church:

Since there are no roads they have to use donkeys. They have three donkeys to use and will lead them down the mountain, which takes three hours. They must wait to catch a ride to the town located four hours away. The wait can be from two to six hours. They will purchase six sugar sacks of sand, find a ride back to the base of the mountain, load two bags of sand on each donkey, and go up the mountain, which takes four hours, going up. Sifting the sand, they will lose one-third. They will then make the same trip time after time until they have enough sand for the 3,000 bricks. They will then have to haul the cement and lime up the mountain to make mortar on their own backs or on the donkeys. They use both methods. My mind doesn't allow me to think of the hours and of the work involved in such a project. I am a little on the lazy side when I think of the amount of work and time involved, and I would probably keep the stick building held together with bailing wire. They are however, extremely happy about the thought of having a new church and having the best building in the Indian village. They are already working like a bunch of ants on building their new church.

In the circumference of His wonderful love,

Jerrel and Delia Shaw

"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