



December 2008

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

My wife Itzen and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a blessed new year. We want to thank you for all the prayers you have said on our behalf this past year, and for those of you who are supporting our ministry.

We have been on deputation for 1 1/2 years, and the Lord has allowed me to preach in 212 churches during this time. When we came to the States, I did not have even one church scheduled. I worked very hard, and the Lord blessed us by allowing us to present our ministry in a few of my dad's supporting churches. He then began to bless us by filling my schedule, and I was able to fill the calendar with almost every available date. I made thousands of phone calls, met with hundreds of pastors, and had the help of several preacher friends who made all of this possible. We have driven over 75 thousand miles in presenting our ministry to churches during this 1 1/2 years. We have made many friends of which many will be our life-long friends and prayer warriors. We did not reach our desired goal set for the monthly support, but we estimate that with another 7-9 new supporters we could breathe somewhat better. Several churches have promised to support us, and if those come through (which we trust they will), we should be just fine. We have decided to go to the field at this time because of our commitment to the American government, to honor the time that was set for my wife's stay in the US. Also, my dad is facing surgery in December and we want to be there with him and take the ministry in his absence. I have the advantage of knowing the language, the work, and what is required for me to do. I can continue the ministry from the first day of my arrival on the field. We have our apartment and our furniture awaiting us, and will not have a large cash outlay to begin living there. This means that we will not lose so much as one day in getting adjusted to serve our Lord. Also, we have a registered Mexican vehicle awaiting us at the border, which means that we will simply have to cross the border, pay a few taxes, transfer our things to the awaiting vehicle, and be on our way.

On November 23, I was ordained and commissioned by my local church, Bethel Baptist Church in Greenfield, IN for the ministry. Pastor Randall Parker officiated the ordination and those composing the ordination council were: Pastor Fred Daniel of Brookhaven Baptist Church, Pastor Ottis Jarrell of Pine Forest Baptist Church, Pastor Jesus Gonzalez of Iglesia Bautista el Faro, Pastor Bill Murdock of Lighthouse Baptist Church, and my father Jerrel K. Shaw of Guadalajara, Mexico, together with the church members and several longtime friends, who were also in attendance.

It is the prayer of my wife and I that our ministry will be a blessing and a joy to each of you who are going to support us, and our desire is to represent each of you as good soldiers of God in the ministry God has given us to do.

May God richly bless you this Christmas season,
Jerry & Itzen Shaw

