



THE SHAW FAMILY ¡VIVA MEXICO!

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March 2012

Greetings from Guadalajara,

We had a very rainy month for this area. It has probably been one of the coldest months on record, and this has set back the strawberry season (which usually comes in the last week of February). As of yet, we have not seen any strawberries. All of you must be tired of winter weather by now, and are looking for a beautiful spring to arrive.

As you know, we were meeting outside in just a lean-to car garage in our new church, and it was getting really cold there. We had only one wall and a tin roof, but bought canvas to keep the wind from coming in through the other side. Dad had an old wood-burning stove, and we installed a stovepipe through the tin roof. We were able to build a nice little fire in there, but it was still cold. One day, around the first of February, somebody told me about a church building that was available about a mile from our lean-to garage church. This church is one that my dad built many years ago, and without a doubt, is the most beautiful church in the entire area. I met with the pastor, and found out that the only members were his immediate family. He told me he was discouraged, and was getting ready to leave the next Monday for another state. He had plans to close down the building, but did not want to because it is a government-registered building. Without a regular preaching service, the government would soon take the building over. I asked him if we could use the building, and he turned it all over to me. I was afraid that by going that far away, we might lose several members. We now have had three weeks of service in this building, and as far as I know, we have not lost any members, even though some of them come from long distances. We have had a high of 50 adults and 8 children, but our usual attendance is around 40. We are trying to be very careful, as we have not yet been given all the necessary paperwork for the building. I am prayerfully hopeful that soon, all the paperwork and details will be worked out. We have not visited any of the people who used to be members of that church, because we are a new church with new people, and many of the former members have been hurt spiritually. We want them to see a new leadership, so they will have confidence in seeing enthusiastic and vigorous Christians.

Itzen, Jazen, and I will be heading out to the U.S. on March 19th. We had hoped to visit all of our supporting churches this summer, but it will be impossible to do so, as we must be back for the Bible school opening in August. We will go to Texas first, Florida next, then up the east coast to South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, then to Indiana, and back to Mexico. We wanted to reach all of our churches this year, but it is impossible. The churches that we can't visit this summer, we will be visiting next summer. I hope to make contact with all of our supporting churches while there.

My dad will be taking my place pastoring my church, teaching in the Bible school, and pastoring his church as well during our absence. This is going to be a heavy burden on him, and he fears he may not have the strength to accomplish everything, so please pray for him, as it is a big job.

We thank you for your prayers, and for all that you do for us and other missionaries.

In His service, Jerry Shaw Jr.