



THE SHAW FAMILY

¡VIVA MEXICO!

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Greetings from Guadalajara!

Many things have happened since my last prayer letter, and I will not be able to list everything in this letter. I will try to highlight some of the events.

I had the opportunity to go to Palma Sola, Veracruz with Bro. Hugo Cordoba. Bro. Cordoba is the son-in-law of Pastor Bill Murdock of Lafayette, IN. I received a call from him inviting me to go to Veracruz to present the Gospel to his family for whom he had a great burden. Upon arrival, I was received by some of the most cordial and hospitable people I had ever met. During the 3 days I spent there, 9 members of Bro. Cordoba's family accepted Christ as their personal Savior. I left Brother Cordoba a discipleship book and Bibles so he could continue working with his family. Please pray for them as there is no church in that area for them to attend.

Mother's Day was celebrated in our church on the 12th of May. Mexico's Mother's Day celebration lasts all week and is a very big deal in the Mexican culture. The church was blessed as we had 17 mothers attend the event. Cake and ice cream were served, and everyone enjoyed the special event. We want to thank Missionary Jack Henderson for providing the gifts that were presented to the mothers.

In Mexico, there is a very important celebration for young ladies when they turn 15 years old called "quinceañera" (similar to the sweet sixteen party). This birthday celebration is usually very complex and very high class. It is considered that girls become women at this age; therefore, it is a very important event. This month, our church will be hosting one of these events for a young lady whose name is Paola. She has received Christ as her Savior and has been attending church faithfully with her mother for the past 7 months. Her mother, her two sisters, and she live in extreme poverty and could not even consider having a party. Paola has never had a gift of any kind, and she has not enjoyed many happy days in her lifetime. The church decided to pay for the event. We are very thankful to see this new church showing forth a giving heart with love and kindness toward those who have less. This will be a day she and her family will forever remember.

The Bible school students have finished their school year and are off to their homes to visit their families and friends. We have enjoyed teaching them the deep things of the Word of God this year and will miss them greatly through the summer. These are exceptional young men, and they have been a blessing to us while helping in the churches. Please pray for them as they return home and help their pastors during the summer. I am sure their pastors will be very surprised at the knowledge they have gleaned in just a few months.

A while back, I had to make a trip to the border. After coming back into Mexico, I was stopped by heavily armed men. I was boxed-in by their vehicles. They quickly identified themselves as the Gulf Cartel, the oldest criminal organization in the country of Mexico. They took me to an abandoned hotel, took everything out of my vehicle, and made a few phone calls, and after two hours, they allowed me to leave. I guess I never had anything of value. It was a very scary time for me.

In His service, Jerry & Itzen Shaw