

Viva Mexico

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Greetings from Guadalajara,

I must ask everyone to forgive me for being so late in getting a prayer letter out. I know that this is very important to do because it is our lifeline. For several months I have been doing my ministry and doing some of my father's ministry while he was in the U.S.A. I soon got behind and could never catch up. We were running from early morning to late night without a day off in all these months. Since he is back, things should be running smoother. At his time I am very exhausted. Thank you for being patient with me during this time.

After graduation, several people told me they wished to begin night school classes in our institute program. At one time we had three different night schools but did not continue them because of lack of interest. I put together a curriculum for these new students because I wanted to change some of the things we used to do. Isn't it interesting how people are so enthused about doing something for the Lord and when the time comes hardly anyone shows up? How people can be so excited about serving Christ and within a few weeks show no interest for what they had committed to do. I prepared for several students for the fall semester and only seven showed up and two of them dropped out after the first night. I pray that the other five will remain faithful throughout this year. I think it is going to be a very long year as everyone flunked their first test.

In August we had our second V.B.S. One of our supporting churches, New Testament Baptist Church from Kinston, N.C., came to help us with the V.B.S., 13 of them made the trip by airplane to Guadalajara and Fred Daniel III and I picked them up from the airport and had nice accommodations waiting for them. On the first night of V.B.S. we had 63 people show up and on the last night there were 105. Pastor Tim Daniel brought a very interesting and challenging study each evening on the book of Ruth. He was a great blessing to our people, while Pastor Jackie Elwart directed the younger children. Three of the older children received Christ as their savior while several younger children made professions of faith. Plus, one lady was saved. On the last evening, the Americans cooked a real southern dinner for everybody. The barbecued pork made a hit with everyone, the sauce was delicious. Britney Daniel, played the piano each evening, while Fred translated for his uncle Tim. On Sunday, some of the Americans stayed and preached in my church while others went to the Los Pocitos church pastored by my father.

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We have worked all summer, usually during the night hours and many day hours as well on a new curriculum for the college. We are adding several new subjects to what we already offer which will give our preacher boys more depth to their future ministry.

Before the college began, I had to go the border to meet my parents so that we could all travel back together for safety purposes. I wanted to bring back an old Argosy trailer to restore it so that we can go to the U.S. this coming summer and visit some of our supporting churches. I did a lot of work on this trailer 2 years ago but ran out of money and time. My permit was about to expire, therefore I had to take it out of the country. It is my hope and prayer that we can have enough money to finish it before next summer. I have been given 6 months by the Mexican government to do the work.

As you have probably heard, after crossing the border the first three hours of driving is very dangerous. Thousand have been killed in the area that we have to go through. I was driving a truck and pulling the trailer and my parents followed me in their Ford Explorer. While going through the most dangerous area controlled by one of the drug cartels, we came very close to losing our lives. I will write an update on what happened to us sometime next week. Thank you for praying for us. Until then...

In His service,
Jerry & Itzen Shaw