

# Viva Mexico

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Happy Thanksgiving;

Thanksgiving is not celebrated here in Mexico and we will have school as usual. Sometimes we, as a family or with friends, celebrate Thanksgiving Day but we usually do it after classes. This year however, we will get together with other missionary families on Tuesday afternoon and go to the home of Jesus Ortiz to celebrate this special day. Thursday will be a usual work day. We have been so busy lately that we are looking forward to a day off.

We have worked every day since September, trying to finish my dad's church hoping to finish it for the dedication on the 22nd. of November. My dad decided to do something he had never done in dedicating this church. He decided to have two days of dedication, one day on Saturday, the 22nd. and the other on Sunday the 23rd. He also wanted to have only the church members participate in the dedication. Missionaries Freddy and Britany Daniel prepared a choir. The Daniels', along with my mother and I, sang a song and Freddy and I played an instrumental. We had four congregational songs and I preached both sermons. I want to tell you I was nervous because I had never before been asked to preach a church dedication sermon.

I thought it was odd that my dad had two days of dedication and asked why he would do it this way. He said that all of the other churches he dedicated was done on just one evening and there were so many people they couldn't get into the building and those standing outside made so much noise no one got anything out of the message. He also said that we could not accommodate so many people at one time. Also, he had invited a classic car club to bring their old cars and display them, hoping and praying that they would bring their families into the church to hear the Word. He wanted to surprise them by giving each of them a Bible. Not one of them had ever before been in a Gospel preaching church. This new church seats only 125 regular people but could hold approximately 175 Mexicans. On Saturday evening we had 175 to 200 people and on Sunday morning we had about the same amount in attendance. The antique car club was afraid to enter but they were hungry and my dad and mom had a nice breakfast awaiting them. Ham and eggs will entice just about anybody! More than 40 unsaved people were at that service. I think my dad invited me to preach because he knew that not only did I know every one of them but I also knew all the church members. I can tell you this, they really heard God's plan of salvation. We were all disappointed when not one of them responded. Many of them made kind comments about the service. We will just have to trust the Lord to work in their hearts.

Please don't forget our annual missionary field conference January 19th-23rd. Anybody is welcome to come; it is a time that pastors preach in the English language to encourage us missionaries. This conference has been a great blessing to us over the past 28 years. Our theme text for the conference is Jeremiah 6:16

In His service,  
Jerry & Itzen Shaw