

# Viva Mexico

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Greetings from Guadalajara,

I trust everyone is enjoying the summer with family and friends. In Mexico, many of us remember when summer was a three-month ordeal. Today, things have changed due to a national law which only allows children to have three weeks of summer. This puts a damper on families' "summer fun."

Although the children's summer vacation has been shortened, summer activities in church continue with enthusiasm! Last week we enjoyed our 4<sup>th</sup> VBS. Sixty-five children faithfully came to church each evening to learn about the life of the apostle Paul. They learned from Paul to face their fear of speaking openly about the Gospel.

We were happy to see two teenagers accept Christ as their Savior during the VBS week. This was worth all the time, the money, the preparation and the lack of sleep on the part of the teaching staff. It is wonderful to see people get saved. One of the teenagers is named Santiago (James) and is 14 years old. He comes from a broken home, his mother is Catholic and his father is a Christian (this was the main reason for the divorce). Therefore, Santiago's ability to come to church is reduced largely as he lives with his mother. We ask you to please pray for Santiago in his struggle as a new Christian to grow in the Lord.

The Bible college is going through an overdue remodeling program. Years ago, the facilities of the Bible school were fantastic (to Mexican standards), however, as Mexico's economy has prospered greatly, so has people's homes. Therefore, several students in the more recent years have complained of the "ugliness" of the building, so we decided that it was time to work on it. The bathroom has been updated, new tile floors have been installed throughout the building, dormitories, kitchen, dining area and office has a new coat of paint and it all looks very nice. We are now ready to receive students for this fall semester.

School starts in one more month! We are excited to begin school this year. We have 30 people enrolled for classes this semester. It is the largest enrollment of students the school has had since 1996 or so. We are praising the Lord for the renewed interest in young people who want to study the Word of God. We have never advertised this institution and we understand that each student comes to us through prayer. The Lord has directed students to us all these many years. Of more than 300 graduates, we know of slightly more than 100 who are pastors both in Mexico and the U.S.A. Three of our students are Mexican/American and will be arriving from the United States towards the end of August. Two young men come from Idaho and one from California.

In September, we will begin a new mission church with the help of three graduate students. We are all looking forward to this great opportunity and pray that God opens the door to the hearts of the people in this small town called “La Venta Del Astillero.” Please pray for this new mission, the Bible college and the church.

Enjoy the rest of your summer,  
Jerry and Itzen Shaw

