

Viva Mexico

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Greetings from Guadalajara,

In my last prayer letter, I mentioned the possibility of beginning a fourth night school in the neighboring state of Zacatecas. That possibility has now become a reality. We will be working with two missionaries, Jonathan Bryan and Roy Sietmann, who are serving the Lord in that state. They noticed a great thirst for deeper studies of the Word of God. They spent many hours looking for good books and materials and a good curriculum without success. They heard about some of our graduates, what they were doing and what they were preaching and were pleased. They then contacted me, took some of the books with them, and, after studying the materials, decided to put an extension of our school in their church. They already have 8 students signed up to begin the fall semester. We will now have 4 night schools plus the day school which works with young men who have higher education.

It looks as if we will have 13 new students with the other 27 students returning for the coming school year.

The Lord's church, which I am pastoring, has enjoyed many activities these past two months. Easter week saw us in a primitive church camp high up in the mountains. Fifty-two church members participated in tent camping where there was no electricity and the only water for cold showers was under the waterfall. I can tell you by experience the water was COOOLD! We were camped in the "Sierra Madre Occidental," Mexico's equivalent to the Rocky Mountains. We stayed for 5 days and 4 very cold nights. The theme of the camp was "defending the faith" (Jude 3). The Bible school students prepared the teaching and preaching as well as the games for the camp. It was a great experience for them in their preparation as future pastors and missionaries.

Mother's Day was celebrated in our church with 26 mothers in attendance. One young man of 18 years of age accepted Christ as his Savior during the invitation. On Mother's Day morning, I experienced a sharp pain on the right side of my stomach. I did not give much thought to the pain as I just figured it was because of the tacos I ate the night before which were purchased from a street vendor. Ignoring my pain, we got dressed and went to Sunday School. Arriving back home after church, we ate lunch and I began to suffer constant pain. Mother's Day in Mexico is such a huge event, and I had prepared a special sermon for mothers. I began my sermon and preached for about 5 minutes and was suddenly doubled over with the most horrible pain I had ever

experienced in my entire life. My father, who was sitting in the front row stood up, and said, "Go to the hospital. I will preach."

Arriving at the hospital's emergency room, I was assigned a bed and tests were begun to locate the problem. It was determined that I had large kidney stones and needed an operation. A 2-hour surgery was performed on Tuesday morning. I praise the Lord that horrible ordeal is now over, and I was able to preach the following Sunday.

I am now preparing certificates and diplomas for the Bible college graduation which will be held on Saturday, May 20th, at 6 p.m. We'll be giving out 2 diplomas and 27 certificates this year. Our speaker this year is Alejandro Galaviz, a graduate of our Bible college who was a missionary in Nicaragua and is now pastoring a new church on the east side of Guadalajara.

Thank you for your prayers and finances for this ministry in which the Lord is allowing us to participate here in this country of Mexico.

In His service,
Jerry and Itzen Shaw

