

Viva Mexico

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Greetings from Guadalajara,

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I trust all of you have been enjoying the summer months with many activities there in your area. The Guadalajara summers are famous for the monsoon rains and electric storms which somewhat curtail our outside youth activities. In spite of the heavy rains, we have managed to continue with our projected ministry.

Vacation Bible School was affected by the rains, but we managed to have a good group of children in attendance. Seventy-seven children, along with the several teachers and workers, enjoyed the week. Eight children made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Most of the children, who made professions of faith, come from Catholic homes. Their parents allowed them to attend the V.B.S. sessions and now we will be visiting those homes with the gospel message.

A new church building is being built in the city of Ameca. Pastor Jonathan Rodriguez is a graduate of our Bible college and has pastored the, "Bread Of Life" Baptist Church in that city for the past 17 years. After saving their money all those years, the congregation was able to purchase their own property on which to build a church. Several people donated money for the building materials. They have no brick layers or men who know about construction within their membership. They requested help from our people because we have much experience in church building. Bible school students, builders in our church, and myself go to Ameca each week to work on the new church. We work about 15 to 17 hours each day we go there to work. The roof has been put on, but it is not yet sealed. They have run out of money to finish, but they already hold services in the building. Because it is monsoon season, everybody sits in church with umbrellas. **They are praying for \$3,000 to finish the roof and windows.** Later, they will be able to finish the rest of the inside work by themselves.

A New Project: In 2005, Marcelino de la Cruz and his cousin Griselda, two Huichol Indians (wee-chol), graduated from our Bible college. After graduation, they both went back to their village to work in the ministry. Several days ago, we drove the 150 miles up in the mountains to visit them. We could only locate Griselda, who informed us that Marcelino was no longer in the ministry. While pastoring his church three years ago, a group of non-Indians went to the church and claimed the property to be theirs. All the congregation fled except the pastor, Marcelino, who stayed and confronted the intruders. For his bravery, his throat was cut from side to side, and he was shot just

above the heart and left for dead. Through a miracle of God, Marcelino did not die! His vocal cords were severely damaged, and he could not talk for two years. He is now beginning to talk softly and works alongside his uncle, another Indian pastor, in three new mission works. His desire is to begin preaching again as soon as his voice grows stronger. We sometimes talk about persecution, but have no idea what some of the national pastors must endure in order to preach the Word of God. I praise the Lord for the Christian men, women and their families who suffer through such horrible difficulties. I will soon be meeting with our Huichol brethren to help them with their music. Several young Huichol people want to learn music so they can help in the ministry. They are very poor and have no money for musical instruments. There is no electricity in the Huichol villages and the best instruments are guitars. Maybe the Lord would put it upon your heart to help in this area so that when I go there to teach I will have a few instruments to take with me. I know where I can purchase good inexpensive guitars. This is going to be a blessing to them and me as well.

In His service,

Jerry and Itzen Shaw

