

Merry Christmas from Guadalajara,

Our prayer is that this letter finds everyone well and getting ready for Christmas. Christmas is a bit different here in Mexico, there is no snow, no candy canes, few Christmas lights, and in Mexican tradition, gifts are not opened until February (This is because the wise men came to bare gifts to our Lord after his birth). Although things have changed considerably in this country since I was a kid, the celebration of our Saviors birth is not comparable to our American Christmas.

Our daughters have never been in the U.S. during winter holidays; this will be their first year celebrating Christs birth in the true American Christmas spirit. They are excited and in hopes of seeing snow for the first time. We will be leaving Guadalajara on the 20<sup>th</sup> and will be coming back on the 30<sup>th</sup> of the month. Our reason for going home for the holidays is to be with my sisters Kim and Kathy. Kim's husband Robert has stage 4 lymphatic cancer, we ask for your prayers for him; as a family we understand that the Lord is in control of it all and we are in prayer for His will to be done in the life of my brother in law.

**New Church building.** In the last letter, I mentioned the start of a new church building in the town of Tala. We are not quite done setting the rock foundation due to the lack of funding. We know our Lord will supply this financial need as He always has, we ask you to be our prayer partners in this matter. We are in desperate need of more rock, at least one-ton worth of cement bags (20 bags make a ton), and rebar. After setting the foundation, we will need brick and additional materials.

**Moms new living quarters.** Her little apartment is now completely finished and we have started moving her things into it. Currently she is in Missouri with her only brother, Pastor Samuel Gonzalez. She will be staying with him through the New Year celebration. We are in hope of having all her things moved over by the time she gets back. We are excited and happy for her to have her own privacy, as she has been living in the living room since the passing of my father. We are thankful for the loving churches that sent money for the building of this little apartment for mom.

**The Bible school is doing wonderful,** as of this date we have not had any drop outs, this is unusual this far into the semester, therefore we are joyful in still having 34 students who are willing to continue their studies of the Word of God. Please continue praying for them as they strive to learn the deep things of The Bible.

**Mission works:** As you may know, we are currently involved in 4 mission works and 2 established churches.

- Libertad (mission work under Bro. Felix Garcia)
- Buenavista (Mission work under Bro. Miguel Juan Cruz)
- San Blas (Mission work under Bro. Moises Contreras and myself)
- Tlajomulco (Mission work under Bro. Jose Luis Hernandez)

**The 2 Churches are:**

- New Life Baptist Church (This is the church building we are trying to build)
- Grace Baptist Church (The church I am pastor of in Guadalajara)

The men above mentioned are all missionaries sent out of “Grace Baptist Church” and are either graduates of our Bible School or about to graduate next May. Please pray for these men of God who are working hard for His Glory so that many will come to know Christ as their Lord and Savior. Truly The harvest is great and the laborers are few.

Please pray for the need of a church van for the Buenavista mission work. Several of the people who attend come from the surrounding areas and it has become difficult for many to come.

We ask you to be in prayer for missionary Salvador Lara (another missionary sent out from our church). He is currently on deputation. Our prayer is that the Lord supplies his financial needs in order to come back to Mexico and partner with us in this The Lords ministry.



May the Lord bless you greatly as you serve Him exhaustively through the remainder of this year. Our prayer is that you all enjoy this upcoming time together with your loved ones, remembering the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Redeemer.

In His service, The Shaws in Mexico



**Pst. Moses & Susy**



**Pst. Miguel & Luisa**

