

September 2022



Greetings from Guadalajara,

This last month was a wonderful time, we have enjoyed the much-needed rain and it's great to see our Lord bring the greenery back to Guadalajara. Our prayer is that you are also doing well during this time of the year. However not everything has been easy, many challenges and heartaches have also surfaced.

The Church is doing wonderful and we praise the Lord for the spiritual growth we see amongst the brethren. We are thankful to our Lord and Savior for having saved and changed the lives of the people in our church throughout the years. We have had 5 new people who have been attending regularly, 2 of them are not saved, we ask for your prayers that the Lord may bring them to repentance and to the knowledge of His saving grace.

The Buenavista mission work (Calvary Baptist Mission) is doing well, although we have moved to a better location within the town, we have not seen a greater interest or curiosity amongst the local people, however we continue to work joyfully. Brother Armando and his wife Rebeca together with the help of American Missionary Mike Meyer and his wife Carol have been knocking on doors and witnessing to the people in the area. Our prayer is that many in that community will come to know our Savior.

The Bible school just started the fall semester on Monday September 5<sup>th</sup>. We are thrilled to inform that 40 brethren are taking Bible school courses this year, 5 of which are in the day school. We believe this is the largest group of students we have had since 1996. After 4 years of the day school being closed, we reopened due to the request of several pastors. We have been working hard in the last few weeks getting the Bible school building back in order, it has been a challenge. We ask for your prayers as we are understaffed, several pastor-teachers will be overloaded with work this semester.

Two weeks ago, missionary Salvador Lara and myself had the privilege to be on the ordination council of Pastor Alexander Diaz in "Iglesia Bautista Evangelica" in Wilder, Idaho. Pastor Diaz is a graduate of our Bible school and it was an honor for us to see him ordained and voted in as the new pastor of that local church.

On the side of a hill, in a location only known as "Piedra china" (curly rock) in the foothills of the mountains in the state of Nayarit, stands a small church named "Iglesia Bautista Fuente de Vida" (Fountain of Life Baptist Church" with a congregation of roughly 70 Huichol (wee-chol) Indians who have been saved by the grace of God. The church lost its pastor to cancer earlier this year. My father began working with them over 20 years ago, and I had the honor to work alongside their pastor for the past 10 years. It was a joy to our hearts building their church building with the help of our local church in Guadalajara. We were informed by the huichol congregation that a decision was made amongst them, their choice has been to no longer stay as independent Baptist, they would now form part of the Southern Baptist Convention. This of course broke our hearts, as we have no say in the matter in their local church. Although it pained our hearts at first, we know and understand that God is sovereign and in total control of His church. Our hearts desire is that the huichol ministry continues and thank the Lord our God for the opportunity He gave us to be a small part in the lives of those brethren that gather in that little church on the side of the mountain. We thank all the churches who supported the huichol ministry over the last several years, it's because of your selfless giving that the congregation in "Piedra China" stands today.

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Our family is doing well, mom is excited because the day school has reopened, she has decided she will be the cook for the students. She continues to amaze me with her unstoppable desire to serve the Lord and others. Itzen is doing well and continues to serve everyday within our local church as well as in the Bible school teaching ladies' classes, just like my mother, her love for Christ and her zeal for serving in the ministry is astounding. I thank the Lord daily for her.

As a family we have been praying for the Lord to open up the opportunity for us to be in the United States next summer, new passports for the kids and new visa for my wife is needed. We are also in prayer for someone to take our place during the summer months, we trust that God will provide for these needs. We ask you to help us pray for this matter. There are several supporting churches that we have not seen in many years. We would also like to spend some time in our home church as well, this is much needed.

We love you and thank you for all you do, for the Lord for this His ministry in Mexico and for our family,

In His service,  
Jerry & Itzen Shaw



