

Merry Christmas from the Shaw's,

We pray this Christmas will be a blessing for you and your loved ones together with your church family, remembering not only the birth of our Lord but also the reason for His coming, to die and resurrect for the redemption of all of those who would receive His Grace.

**Christmas will be a bit different for us this year.**

We will be spending Christmas in a Hotel room in Mexico City with My wife's family. Dr. Gustavo Lopez is Itzen's father, he was diagnosed with prostate cancer a few months ago. After tests, the doctors decided surgery and radiation would be the way to proceed. Surgery went as planned on the 9th of December; he was released from the hospital on the 12th but has to stay in Mexico City for follow up treatment and radiation scheduling. We ask for your

prayers for my father-in-law's recovery and future treatment. My mother-in-law Gloria, has been working hard to keep up with everything during this time, she is exhausted, please keep Gustavo & Gloria in prayer.



**Bible School building renovation.** Renovations of the building resumed a couple months ago. The downstairs is a complete disaster, it looks like a war zone, only the kitchen and study room have been untouched. The students have left for Christmas vacation, making it an ideal time to get things done, however, three weeks is all we get before they return. We believe this project will continue through most of next year.

**Church Plants:**

**The Buenavista church** plant is doing well, they just moved locations closer to the center of town. Although the place is smaller the location is optimal. We thank our Lord for the provision of this new place. Starting the year in a better location! Praise the Lord! Please pray for Bro. Armando Ortega and his wife Rebeca who give themselves to His ministry among the people of Buenavista.

**La Venta church plant** is only 2 months old; because of the area and the history it has towards Christianity, we believe it will be quite some time before results are seen. Please pray for the people of La Venta, as well as Missionary Salvador Lara who is doing the work.

**Libertad church plant** has also been a hard location to work in throughout the years. It seems as though people in this community never become permanent residents due to financial struggles in the area. This makes starting a ministry a huge challenge. Bro. Felix Garcia and his wife Ofelia have been dedicated and faithful workers of our Lord in this town. Please continue to pray for them as they continue in the service of our Redeemer.

**Women's Christmas celebration.** The ladies from our church went all out! They had a Christmas celebration, inviting two other local churches to participate. Close to 60 ladies came to thank the Lord for coming to this earth to die on the cross for our sins and resurrect in Victory to bring salvation to all who believe in Him. My wife Itzen was told by the ladies to sit this one out and do nothing, they took care of everything in the event. Itzen was thrilled to see the ladies serve in that way, giving her time to simply enjoy.

**Last night,** was our Christmas service! Although several church members are out for the holiday, about 50 of us got together to worship our Lord, remembering what Christ did when he came as a lamb to be slain for our sins, remembering what He is doing today as our High Priest at the right hand the Father, and we remembered what He will do in the future as eternal King.

We thank you for your ministry, your service and your love for missions. All for His Glory!  
From our family to yours, Merry Christmas brethren,

The Shaw's in Mexico

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