

**Steve & Amy Robertson**  
**Robertson Review, January/February 2008**  
**Church Planting with MTW in Guadalajara, Mexico**  
**February 11, 2008**

Dear Friends,

**[Note: we have a new mailing address, at the bottom of this letter, effective immediately.]**

Winter in Guadalajara. Well, it's not winter like most of you are having, and as tired as many of you must be right now of ice and snow, we miss it. The kids ask, "When will we get to play in the snow?" The answer is that once every 100 years or so it snows here, and then it's not enough to do anything with it. But that doesn't mean it's not cold – recent forecasts called for lows in the 30's every night. As most homes have concrete walls with no other insulation, it gets pretty chilly at night (a 37 degree night with no heating feels really cold by morning). We also have highs in the low 80's every day, so we experience huge temperature swings of over 40 degrees every day. But maybe that sounds better to you than days or weeks of sub-freezing conditions.

In many ways we are encouraged in our work here. With the new year have come several new opportunities for us to serve. I am currently teaching a Bible overview class, assisting with a children's catechism class (for church membership), helping design a discipling Sunday School curriculum, preaching, and assisting each of our various congregations in their ministry efforts. Additionally, there are several things coming up quickly. First, a handful of our church members took an intense theology class last year. We are now working on equipping them with biblical interpretation skills to go with their theological knowledge. I'm putting together a class to help them in this (this is several steps up in rigor from the class I taught in the fall), with an eye toward helping some of these men begin preparation for ordination. We also hope to open up these courses (interpretation and theology) to several other missions groups and churches working in other parts of the city, and we hope to see this convert to a small-scale seminary. Second, I'm going to have a hand in designing and implementing training for our newly-elected deacons. Third, we hope to begin a Bible study in our home in the next few weeks. Several folks from our church have expressed interest in being part of a study, and we're excited to begin hosting this type of activity.

A fair objection at this point might be, "What does this flurry of activity have to do with getting a new church started? Aren't you supposed to be focused on new stuff and not so involved in the stuff that already exists?" I believe the answer to that is "Yes" and "No." Yes, we need to be involved in new things. This flurry of activity, however, actually has a lot to do with a new plant. Part of it is my own need for training. For example, I'm getting the chance to assist with a children's membership class before having to form and lead one on my own. I'm also getting to do a lot of training of others – without developing national leaders our church plant is doomed before it begins. And it is our hope that our new Bible study will enable us to form a "core group" for the new plant and to give us a place where neighbors and new friends can come to hear the gospel. Please be praying for all these things!

Some quick updates:

- Amy's health has been good since the surgery. She has begun allergy shots, which are not nearly as uncomfortable as we had thought. Continue praying for her!
- Joseph has been having a lot of breathing difficulty. Please pray that he will be healed and that God would guide us as we look into treatment.
- The kids are showing progress with the language, though they still have much to learn. Praise God for this advance, and please pray that they will continue to improve. "Coincidentally" the improvement seems to go back to the time a few months ago when we decided that each one of us would pray for language ability in our evening prayer time.
- Honey is no longer an only dog. Canela (Cinnamon), a golden retriever mix, has joined her to give her company and help in digging up the back yard.

This month's cultural tidbit:

Everything is better with salt, lime and chile. Yes, everything. (Well, almost everything.) Tacos – yes. Corn – yes. Potato chips – yes. Mango – yes. Cucumber – yes. Candy – yes. Ice cream – yes. Pizza – no. You put catsup on that.

In Christ Jesus,

Steve (for the Robertsons)

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Mailing Address for LETTERS ONLY – packages/items of value will be rejected/stolen/or will cost us:

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