

Robertson Review, August, September & October 2008

Church Planting with MTW in Guadalajara, Mexico



MISSION
to the
WORLD

Dear Friends,

“When the USA sneezes, Mexico gets pneumonia.” That's a common phrase speaking about the dependent economic relationship that Mexico has with the US. The economic trouble in the US is being felt here. The peso has weakened, and inflation is taking off. People are jittery and fearful, people are losing jobs, unemployed workers from the US are returning (flooding an already flooded labor market) and crime has already made a noticeable increase. As you pray for the US economy, please pray for the world economy as well. Many Mexicans are deeply concerned – afraid of what a prolonged recession could mean for them.

The most significant change in ministry over the last few months is that we appear to have turned a corner reputation-wise with some of our neighbors. When we arrived we were looked at with suspicion, and there were some rumors circulating about us being part of a cult. Some may still think that, but we've had increased acceptance among several families. They now seem to view us as acceptable and even respectable. We've been asked to pray with and for people, and some have come to us with questions and concerns. And some have even come to our Bible



study. Please pray that the Lord will give us continued progress with these neighbors and that we won't be pigeon-holed in the role of “religious workers”. The culture is so good at syncretizing (blending different, sometimes contradictory ideas from different areas together) that we are in danger of being labeled "respectable religious workers". We are trying hard at the moment to help people see that we are here to offer more than a "respectable religious option" - we are offering a life-changing, life-saving alternative. Please pray that we can communicate this distinction without losing our hard-won positive reputation.

Some quick updates/prayer requests:

- Please continue to pray for our health. In the latest installment of our health drama, I've broken my arm. It's not a serious break, but it makes everything a bit harder. Hopefully in another week or two I'll have the splint off and will begin rehabbing the muscles.
- The depths of sorrow and hurt that we find in people's lives are heart breaking. Please pray that we will be able to minister to people, encouraging them in the truth of the gospel, and at the same time ministering to the real physical, emotional and psychological needs that weigh them down.



Our team's first deacons: Gabriel, Isaf & Don Efrain

- I mentioned in our last letter that I was going to do the Bible instruction portion of the teacher training at the kids' school. This was a great blessing to me and gave me greater connectedness with the school and with other Christians here in Guadalajara.
- Our first deacons were ordained and installed last month! Praise the Lord for these men and ask him to continue raising up national leaders.
- We are thankful to have had some visitors and would love to have more!

Cultural tidbit:

Mexico is much more intentionally nationalistic than the United States. There are frequent radio spots explaining their cultural heritage and encouraging people to maintain it – for example, encouraging people to make traditional meals or educating them about the miracles performed by the Virgin of Zapopan. In school the kids study the distinctives of the different states here, even learning dances that come from particular regions of the country. One of the recent nationalistic campaigns is a movement to resist Halloween, which is considered American and Christian, by clinging to the Day of the Dead (Nov. 2), which is considered Mexican and Roman Catholic.

One other note: a fairly large percentage of our support comes through year-end giving. We realize that this year is a difficult year in which to give, yet we encourage you to be intentional about setting aside money for the Lord's work in all parts of the world (not just for us). Many works are struggling due to a lack of funding. If the Lord is leading you to give, contribution mailing instructions are found below. MTW will accept year-end gifts with postmarks of December 31 or earlier.

Please let us know how you are doing and how we can be praying for you in the coming weeks.

In Christ Jesus,

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Mailing Address for LETTERS ONLY –
 packages/items of value will be rejected/stolen/or will
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Our phone # from the USA: 011-52-333-855-8824

MTW donations address: PO Box 116284, Atlanta, GA 30368-6284. Mark payments Robertson 016521