

## Robertson Review, February 2009

### Church Planting with MTW in Guadalajara, Mexico



Dear Friends,

A few months after we arrived here in 2007 we went to a wedding. Weddings are LONG events here, and we were at this one for about 5 hours or so. The kids suffered through it. Too new to Spanish to be able to hang out comfortably with the other kids, they would go back and forth between trying to play and harassing us about getting to leave. A few weeks ago we went to a baby shower – the bride from 2007 is now expecting her first. We were at the same place, with mostly the same people and same kids. Ours joined into playing and talking with the others immediately. They still struggle with confidence in Spanish, but we see great improvement and are so thankful.

We are encouraged about how things are going with our neighbors. We've had some great interactions and deep talks with people, and we're seeing more and more openness to the gospel.

Things are happening with our Bible study. We aren't sure what to make of the changes yet, but something is happening. We've had an influx of new people, which on one hand is great – new people are a necessary ingredient for a church plant. On the other hand, the new people come from widely divergent religious backgrounds (some of them Christian), and we're having difficulty getting everyone on the same page and heading in the right direction. We need to maintain the vision of the original core group (reaching our section of the city with the good news of Jesus Christ) and not be overwhelmed by new influences.



Please be praying for:

- Maturity and unity of vision in our core group.
- More involvement in our Bible Study from people in our community and that the people with whom we've had contact will have saving faith in Christ.
- Our health. As (almost) always, health is an issue for us. Please pray for me as I have to make decisions about a knee surgery.
- That the kids and we would continue to grow in our linguistic and cultural abilities.

Cultural tidbit:

Many of Mexico's federal holidays are known by their dates more than their actual names (just as we refer to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July more often than we do to Independence Day), and lots of streets are named after these important dates. Mexicans also have a tradition of making puentes (bridges) with their holidays to have long weekends. So if November 20 (Revolution Day) fell on a Thursday, they would form a puente to take off a 4-day weekend. So a year or so ago, the

government decided to curb this back a bit, and now federal holidays are celebrated on the Monday of the week in which they occur, creating 3 day weekends for all major holidays. But this now leads to some funny situations, as this month we celebrated the 5<sup>th</sup> of February on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February. Yes, it was actually Constitution Day, but most people had to stop and think for a minute to come up with that.



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 cost us:

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