



## **Hello Everyone!**

We are finishing up our first term serving in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico. God has been so good in allowing us to make many friends with Mexican nationals and U.S. volunteers, and to work with them in evangelistic outreach and church planting. We also have had the privilege of serving under the supervision of Ben and Barbara Herrera. Ben and Barbara are well-gifted, hardworking missionaries, who have also become our friends. Our team's goal is to plant new churches.

On Feb. 7 we will be moving to the U.S. for 6 months to give report to churches on our work in Mexico and to encourage more people to support or consider missionary service. Then in August, God opens a new chapter in our lives, as we begin our second term in a new location in Colima, Mexico.

## **Examples of the Work in Guanajuato**

Two of the many churches we worked with in Guanajuato were the church in Tres Puentes and the church in Marfil.

Tres Puentes is a small country church near the city of Celaya, where we live. We attended this church when we were not visiting other churches on the Lord's Day. We helped encourage the church in the growth of their mission in the village of San Antonio and in outreach in the larger nearby town of Comonfort. In May, Jeff and pastor Tomas shared in baptizing 13 young people, including our daughter, Charissa. Pastor Tomas and his wife, Guadalupe, have six daughters, and Charissa and Lois love to get together with them to visit and to play together.

Marfil is a new church near Guanajuato city that we visit and have worked together with a U.S. volunteer team from Oklahoma City. Pastor Cesar, his wife, and two small children grew up in Guanajuato and have accepted God's call to start a new church in this spiritually dark city. The Protestant population of the city is below 1% and churches have historically not done well in the city. However, the church in Marfil is growing, and presently meets in a rental building.

In October, along with the U.S. volunteers and Marfil church volunteers, we showed a series of nightly evangelistic movies, culminating in a church service and community meal. The volunteers also offered free haircuts, manicures, English classes, eye exams, and gave away used clothes. Many people stopped by and as a result, nearly a dozen made a profession of faith.

## **Home school**

Charissa is now 7 years old and in the second grade in her home school curriculum. She enjoys school and is progressing very well, especially in her reading ability. She likes to read short books by herself now, as well as have us read to her. She is a joyful kid who makes friends easily.

Lois is 3 years old and she enjoys coloring, playing with her My Little Ponies, and playing with her big sister. She is a happy and joyful kid.

## **Colima, Mexico**

Colima is a city with a population of about 200,000 people. It is the capital of the state of Colima and is situated in west central Mexico. We will be working to plant new churches and train leaders for these churches. Please pray for us as we seek God's direction for Colima over this coming year.

## **Thank You**

Thank you so much for your prayers and support for this ministry. Thank you for giving to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and The Cooperative Program in Southern Baptist Churches. These two offerings enable us to join over 5000 other missionaries to be on the field to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ to a lost and hurting world.

## **Prayer Requests**

- 1. Pray for all those who were faced with the claims of Christ during outreach activities in Guanajuato to make whole-hearted commitments to Christ.**
- 2. Pray for our final few days of packing and the move back to the U.S. for stateside assignment on Feb. 7. Pray for God's peace during this hectic time and that God give us energy and good health.**
- 3. Pray for our time in the U.S. to be fruitful as we give reports in churches and encourage others to consider mission service. Also pray that we recharge our spiritual and physical batteries.**
- 4. Pray for us as we seek out the Lord's guidance and plan on how best train leaders and plant churches in Colima.**

In Christ,

Jeff, Deliegha, Charissa, Lois Swanson  
Proverbs 3:5-6