

JANUARY 2005 NEWSLETTER:

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

BORDER CROSSING WAS A DOOSY!!

Our trip back home is never dull. We encountered a blowout while in Texas and for some unknown reason, the van ran hot leaving us stranded on the side of the Interstate for about an hour. But God could not have picked a better spot for us to stop. We ended up pulled over in front of a huge plant. Moments later security guards and some workers from the plant approached us with a 5 gallon container of water, which they gave to us to use on our journey in case more problems would arise. No real problem was found; water was then added to the empty radiator, and we were on the road again never to experience problems again. The real ordeal happened at the border crossing. The government office in Veracruz, which issued us our special permission papers to leave and return to Mexico while our visas were being located, hadn't a clue that it didn't pertain to our vehicles too. That's right, we had permission to come and go but our cars didn't! Five different border crossings and 9 hours of early morning hours (6:30pm-3:30am) trying to find a loop in the law to allow our vehicles to enter with us into Mexico was somewhat of a challenge. Finally, God in His mercy and grace saw us through, as He miraculously touched the border guards hearts to allow us to enter with our van and trailer on another type of visa if we promised to not show anyone it plus return in 6 months to cancel this special paperwork. Figuring out a way to cross with our vehicle, not to mention being super tired from driving all day; we were at the mercy of the officials and more than happily agreed to their terms. But they only gave us permission for our van and trailer. So we unloaded the Toyota Pickup truck of as much as we could and packed the 'stuff' around the kids in the van without a square inch of extra space. Then we drove to a Pastor's home in Reynosa that Jacob's church had been helping this year. Jacob was asking God what to say to him as not to alarm him at the horrific hour of 4:00am when we miraculously met him driving by his house. He and his family were already awake and up and around. We left the truck in his care until God provides us with a clear vision for it.

So it looks like we will see you all in May.

CHRISTMAS WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Christmas this year was super special for us, as our children, Jacob and Ashley chose to spend their holiday with us in Mexico, as well as the Youth Pastor, Jessie, and three youth; Megan; Caley; and Jason; from our home church of Grace Harbor Family Church in Covington, LA.

Pat and Pastor Brigido from the waterfall Church, went to Veracruz to collect the Shoeboxes from the warehouse. It took three hours of climbing 50 flights of steps and

loading over 1000 shoeboxes into *Caballo Pinto* van. These boxes are to distributed throughout five area churches. They had boxes stuffed between the passenger seats, in every nook and cranny, inside and outside the van. At one point, unbeknownst to Pat, Brigido jumped out of the van to help Pat back up in front of our house. Pat made his turn and not thinking anyone was home, continued on down the road leaving poor Brigido at our door steps. When Pat made a curve and hit a *tope* (speed bump), boxes fell where Brigido was suppose to be sitting. When Pat didn't hear from him, he stopped to take a peek pulling boxes out of the way and discovered he wasn't in the car with him. He couldn't figure out where he had disappeared to. On their trip back from Veracruz, they encountered horrifically strong winds and rain, and with the boxes tied on outside of the van; they could only imagine how soaked they must have been. But to their delight, the rain never penetrated the boxes and gifts were not spoiled.

The kids from G.H.F.C. helped Pat unload hundreds of Samaritan Purse gifts at the Waterfall Church that evening and on Christmas Eve participated in the evening message and were given an opportunity to pray over the children during an altar call. Then on Sunday, December 26th at Casa de Gloria, to the surprise of everyone present, we distributed the shoeboxes donated by our home church and New Sharon Baptist Church of Husser, La. as a special Christmas treat from the folks back in Louisiana. We enjoyed watching the children unwrap their shoebox gifts eager to explore their new blessings. Many received warm knitted gloves and hats, perfect for the colder weather they would experience in Mexico City the next day. For others, we had to explain why their was only one large Christmas stocking and why it was too large for their foot. NASCAR collectors would have had a hissy fit to see NASCAR collectibles mulled around in the muddy dirt floor houses so no recognizable number could be seen. And children ran to meet Pat to ask him what Silly Putty was all about. He carefully explained to them it was not to eat!!

Later that same evening, Jessie shared a message in Spanish at the La Barra church and given the blessing to pray for those who came to the altar. One young boy in particular received the Lord and the next day was with us at the youth conference. Our kids and visitors all flew home after being touched by God at the powerful youth conference in Mexico City on Dec. 31st.

YOUTH CONFERENCE IN MEXICO CITY:

It was 4:30am as we were just readying ourselves for our trip to the conference when there was a knock at the door. Many members of Casa de Gloria, with gifts in hand, sang Karen Happy Birthday, in the old Mexican tradition of the Mañanita. It made her day special from the beginning. Then the *Happier Bus* and *El Pinto* were filled to capacity with 52 young and old alike, as we headed to the conference in the early morning hours of the 27th. Jacob was a blessing to assist his Dad in driving the van on the way there. We took a short educational detour to the Pyramids of Cholula in Puebla before we continued on.

The next four days were powerful as the Holy Spirit ministered to everyone in song and preaching. Ashley was a special blessing as she translated each and every message

for the youth from our church so they could partake in the blessing that was being poured out.

Testimonies followed the conference. Gloria, a 14 year old girl, told the congregation that she was set free and delivered of many things and came back different. Her mother totally agreed that she couldn't believe the difference in her daughter's behavior and attitude. Other kids gave similar testimonies of their liberating experience. It's always amazing to be a part of the move of God and see lives changed, but extraordinary when family can testify of the change that happened only days before.

PRAISE REPORTS:

Last month we included a list of several prayer requests of which the response was generous. Thank you to everyone who made the following possible:

A. New Sharon Baptist Church in Husser, Louisiana; for sponsoring the majority of the youth to go to the Youth Conference in Mexico City last month. Many youth were blessed by your generosity.

B. We were believing for another 15 passenger van to replace the Ole *Caballo Blanco*. (White horse) God faithfully supplied a 1992 Ford Black and Silver Van, nicknamed *Caballo Pinto*, (Painted horse) to take its place. It is a blessing because it's equipped with A/C and windows!!(Ha!)

C. We were in need of 2 new bus tires for *The Happier Bus* before we took it to Mexico City. With the offerings that came in, we were able to purchase the tires, mount them and rode safely to the conference and back again without any problems!

D. We wanted a camper shell for our 1989 Toyota pick-up truck. With the shell, we were able to load the truck down and cross into Mexico, protecting it's cargo from the weather.

E. In December, some wonderful garage sale items that were in excellent condition were donated to be placed in our Bazaar; funds of which go towards the future facility of Casa de Gloria. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this cause.

F. We have a very faithful supporter who has kept us supplied with Bibles, Bible covers and tracks over the years. We wish to Thank You for "sowing" Spanish Bibles and tracks into the people of Mexico. We supply bibles to several churches in the area as the need arises and the supply lasts. This time, a whole box of Bibles was "sown" into a particular local church and the Word never returns void!

G. We asked for musical instruments and we were blessed with an electronic keyboard.

H. We asked for a baby stroller for single mother, Violeta, our Sunday school teacher, and God provided her with the best!

I. We asked for a wheel chair last year for Justiniano, who was electrocuted on the job two years ago. This year, he needs a walker! God miraculously provided and Justiniano with a huge smile stretched across his face, was without words to express his heartfelt thanks.

Many blessings upon all who contributed and made all these prayer requests possible. Thank you for all your support and making it a blessing to be your extended hand in San Andres Tuxtla, Veracruz, Mexico.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Jan. 8th ~ Bazaar becomes mobile for the first time. We will hold it in front of our Monday night cell group home.

Jan. 15TH ~ Children's Festiniños Outreach with the Samaritan Purse gifts with clowns, puppets, dramas, and games, for ages 2-14 years old.

Jan. 29th ~ Mobile Bazaar goes to it's second location in the city, at the home of our Thursday night cell group.

Jan. 29th ~ Monthly City wide alcoholic outreach as we take to the streets of San Andres

PRAYER NEEDS:

1. Pray for God to continue to supply musical instruments for Casa de Gloria's Celebration Service, i.e....electric guitars, microphones with adjustable stands, sound track tapes or CD's, music scores for keyboard or guitar, etc..
2. Need to purchase a brain for our electric drum set costing approx. \$500.00.
3. Pray for additional International Bible Curriculum materials @\$35.00 per course of 5 –7 lessons each course.(\$5.00 per lesson on CVD) We have Bible School graduates who are hungry for the Fresh Word of God and wish to continue their studies.
4. Pray for the funds to replace the 4th and 5th Trimester International Bible School CVD's that were ruined last year. There are 32 lessons in each of the Trimesters. Cost for each CVD is \$5.00 or \$35.00 per course or \$160.00 for the complete replacement.
5. We would like to have a Radio, CD player, or cassette player for *Caballo Pinto* Van.
6. Please pray about donating Spanish books, videos and/or DVD's, music tracts, CD's or cassettes to our public lending library.
7. Would like to purchase a 3-band cell phone with interchangeable chips for use while stateside or in Mexico, approx. \$150.00.
8. Pray about "sowing seed" into our new building fund.
9. Would like to buy 50 additional stackable plastic chairs for Casa de Gloria @ about \$5.00 each.