

Greetings!

The first week of January in Mexico is the “Three Kings Celebration”. A Biblical example of this time of giving to children is given in Matthew 2 by the “wise men” or “magi” when they gave gifts to the child, “Jesus”. The emphasis here on giving to children is magnified even more so than Christmas time. The total missions giving of the children surpassed over \$12,897.00 MXN Pesos or a little over \$600.00 USD for Missionary Christmas gifts during 2024. Now, that’s something to be excited about.

The month of January, our ladies adorned the church house with brightly colored country flags from all over the world. We had food from the continents of Asia and Europe and special speaker came and his preaching was like a cool drink of water on a hot summer day! We were crammed and jam packed out: 128 in attendance, 11 saved and 5 baptized. Our special speaker brought 50 pairs of brand-new sneakers and purchased 20 bags of groceries to give away. We were so thankful for his generous nature and spirit! Our previous Missions Director now in heaven, Rafael Maldonado Rebolledo, (not his name now, as he more than likely has a “new name”) was honored and a nice glass plaque with a picture engraving was given to his wife and family. Many new future mission’s givers were educated on how believers can financially support Mexican missionaries all over the world. Pray for our new group of church members to learn to give financially from an abundant heart.

The last several weeks there has been a little bit of friction due to the governing bodies from Mexico and the good ole US of A. Missionaries in neighboring countries walk somewhat lighter than in countries farther away. I gave an online interview to a supporting church recently and conveyed them to see that the differences to missionary life is more delicate the closer you are to America. God has indeed given America a great heritage!

Ana Fabiola brought several family members to church. Her sister, Viridiana Lopez Puebla, and her cousin, Olga Rosales Puebla, followed the Lord in baptism. Her family lives just 3 very high and steep hills away but due to the reduced road width, the jampacked traffic takes almost 2 hours to arrive at church. The Ciudad Mexico (CDMX) has been installing something akin to a ski lift called a “Telesférico” or 6 passenger tram that would go right across houses, businesses, traffic and hills quite easily. That would be great if they would come over our way.

Also, remember “Chucho”? His daughter, Anna Cecilia Marín and grandchildren, Juan Antonio García and Anna Sofía García, came to church. We have been visiting them for a couple of months and they have been listening to the Gospel and allowing the Word of God to sink deep in their hearts. They believed on Jesus Christ and followed the Lord in Believer’s Baptism. The Bible says in Hebrews 4 that the Word of God discerns the thoughts and intents of our hearts. After all the food had been eaten and after all the baptisms, Anna Cecilia had such a grateful heart that she took up a mop and mopped, and especially as a visitor, that is something very special.

Just a few observations from our travels in and out of Mexico. For as long as I can remember, as you drive across the bridge from the Texas side to the Mexico side there has always been a sign that says something like: **If you bring guns or ammo you will go to jail in Mexico.** That sign has mysteriously disappeared from some border crossings. Also, I have never seen any previous regulation like this, but airline flights are now instructing that any rifles, shotguns and/or handguns can be put under the plane in checked luggage. And, there are now Air Marshall’s on every Mexican interior flight. This change has happened within the last 2 years. Could the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment also apply in Mexico? ¿Quien sabe?

Our 2004 Volkswagen van route has been parked the last several week’s. It was needing maintenance and now the electrical system is not responding and we are having to rent vans for our route which has grown. Our people are excited to see the great things that our Heavenly Father has done and will do for us! In Mexico City,

Missionaries David and Holly Combe  
Mark 11:22

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Longview, Texas  
Faith Baptist Church, Oak Creek, Wisconsin