

5 Calle 12-126, Zona 1, 13001
Huehuetenango, Guatemala
Sept. 30, 2009

Dear Team-mates,

May this find you rejoicing in the Lord's blessings, as we do. You are part of those blessings to us. Thank you.

We have been back here for 3 months now, and have been able to get into some phases of the ministry, even getting to some of the villages, but mainly we have been at home. Helen is revising and adding to the Chuj hymnbook, which is turning out to be a longer job than expected, but will be well worth the effort. I have done various things. Last week we printed about 7,500 workbooks for the children's "Ethics" classes in the public schools here next year. These happen to be on the Gospel of John. Pray the Lord will continue to use this ministry powerfully. Ambrocio and Ernesto are putting the final touches on the Chuj Old Testament recording for the MegaVoice players.

30 years ago today we left the town of Jacaltenango, after being there 4 years, translating the New Testament, and cooperating with the church. Over the years Jacaltenango has shown few results from the Gospel witness. But the Lord has not finished His work there. He led us into a children's ministry among the Chuj Indians, and led us to Nelly Lopez to take an active part in that, taking a huge load off our shoulders. She lived in Salcaja, more than 5 hours drive from the Chuj area, where her husband had a job. Little by little he, Renee, got involved driving her to various Chuj villages on weekends. A little over a year ago he decided to quit his job and work with the ministry full time. We looked unsuccessfully for some place near the Chuj area where they could live and have schooling for their 3 children, till we decided to look in Jacaltenango, which is 4 hours closer than Salcaja. There God led us to a lot with a coffee warehouse on it, which we were able to buy for a very favorable price. They have since made the warehouse into a very acceptable residence. The town is very anti-Protestant, and Evangelical churches have not prospered.

Almost from the day the Lopez family moved to Jacaltenango they began to see folks come to the Lord, the CAM church in town start to re-unite, a split-off from the CAM church in an adjacent town became recognized as a daughter church, several groups of young people have gotten together and become active in reaching out, and children's groups have started up in several places. They have been invited to show a DVD on undesirable subliminal messages in certain types of music to students in several secondary schools, and it appears that this coming school year, starting in January, the doors may open to have "Ethics" classes in the local schools. Of course they have had opposition. About a month ago, while they were in church, a local gang broke into their home and stole a good many things, and the Lopez children, as outsiders and Protestants holding to strict moral standards, have had a rough time in school, but are slowly earning the respect of both teachers and students. They need our prayers. We have attached a photo of the Lopez family.



We praise the Lord for His working to bring other people into the picture: another missionary family – the Taylors - and several Jacalteco students graduating from seminary, or beginning to take leadership in the Jacalteco-speaking churches. One of these leaders is Baldemar, from a village away from town. He was studying for the priesthood, but was thrown out of seminary for health problems. Very much embittered, he returned to Jacaltenango to prepare to become a teacher. There one of his fellow students began talking to him about the Lord, and eventually he accepted Christ, whereupon he was put out on the street by the family he was staying with and rejected by his mother. Various Christian families took him in, and he has grown rapidly, becoming a leader in the young people's group. Yesterday we heard that his younger brother has accepted Christ and that his mother has grudgingly given them permission to have a young people's meeting in her home. This calls for praise and prayer.

People ask us about our retirement plans. We have looked into several options, but so far have no clear leading from the Lord, so will continue to do what we can here till we get such an indication. Thank you for your prayers.

Gratefully,

David and Helen Ekstrom

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