

Dear Family and Friends,

Jesus said, "As my Father has sent me, so send I you." The Father sent Jesus to be born a man, or incarnate, into our world. Jesus sends us to do the same. We have wanted to incarnate in Mexico, and especially our neighborhood, as Jesus did. We raise chickens, roosters, rabbits, etc. as our neighbors do. Chris wears sombreros. The kids play soccer and go to local schools. We love the life we are adopting.

After years in our neighborhood, when pavement was finally laid, a taxi stand was placed in front of our house. I (Chris) have introduced my testimony and Christ into our conversations, while developing friendships with them.

As part of the September 15, Bi-Centennial celebration of Mexico's independence, Kathy and I organized a neighborhood /birthday party. We invited the church, the band played, pozole for 300 people was ordered-it was a festive event. We invited all the taxi drivers and many others in the neighborhood promised to come.

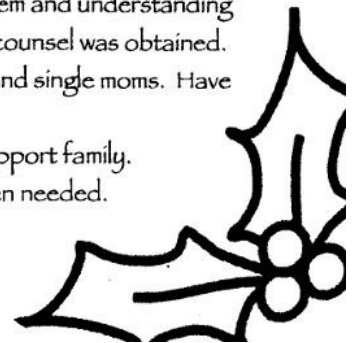
About 15 neighbors, who do not follow Christ, attended. But, my closest taxi friends, who I talk to daily, did not attend. I felt awkward greeting them the next day, and they seemed to feel the same. What relieved by feeling of rejection understood from their perspective what attending this event would mean.

My local taxi driver friends are responsible for care of a very important image. I believe, from their perspective, entering our home meant entering spiritual enemy territory. This has helped me not to feel their rejection as severely, and to understand that the incarnation is only the beginning.

Esteban, a Center for Church Planting graduate, told us one day, *"The most helpful teaching from the Center for Church Planting in Tenancingo, was that I needed to incarnate where I lived. Though I am Mexican, I was not accepted into the small town I was planting a church in. When I began to identify with the neighborhood people, and not just preach to them, I was finally accepted into the small town I live in. Since, then the church has been born."*

Other ways of incarnating this year:

- *Starting a safe house for abused women. We offer talks for women on self-esteem and understanding and escaping from abuse. The house has already served as a refuge while legal counsel was obtained.
- *Offering free tutoring for kids in poor neighborhoods, ridden with prostitutes and single moms. Have seen great results, need more volunteers.
- *Teaching life skills & trades to women so they can make an honest living, and support family.
- *Healing marriages thru Bible Study, small groups, mentoring and counseling when needed.



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Some highs ++ and lows -- of the family:

Samuel: ++ loves his new school, visitors, playing soccer--dad being sick
Ana Luz: ++Loves new school, all the fun visitors, water park and her cuynos had 2 babies
 --missing friends at old school and family, and 1 baby cuyo died.
Nicolas: ++Playing soccer at new school, raising chickens, riding 4 wheeler on his birthday, --a couple chickens died that we were raising since babies, and dad being sick so much
Kathy: ++City of Refuge women's shelter is open, tutoring program with poor children, women's October conference, loves kids new school, Mom and Jay's visits
 --Feeling so limited in the face of so much oppression (physical, spiritual and emotional), watching even believers be deceived by the enemy and his divisive ways.
Chris: ++Continual training of Mexican church planters and pastors, continued passion to see churches in abandoned towns, growing love for my wife and kids (and animals) --Being hospitalized for loss of eyesight in right eye, seeing the depravity of humanity and so much hopelessness with no desire to change.

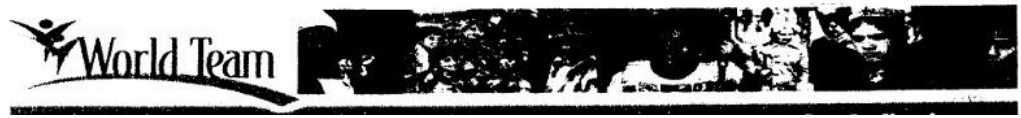
We believe we are all called to be the hands, feet, mouth and heart of Jesus, wherever you are! We know many of you are doing that and you have inspired us many times. We thank you for your love, prayers and generous support that allow us to try and show Christ here. Have a blessed Christmas and may 2011 find you enjoying each day, hand in hand with our Saviour! We love you!

*Chris
Kathy
Samuel
Nicolas
AnaLuz.*



PS: Please continue to pray for Chris' health. He has lost some vision in his right now and we found some good specialists here in Mexico City (with our insurance) who is investigating the causes of yet another optic neuritis. We are praying against Multiple Sclerosis, and trusting in God's goodness and perfect purposes. Just this morning a neighbor woman stopped me to ask how Chris was because she had heard he was in the hospital. In SIX years, this is the FIRST time someone has stopped me to ask how we were! " ALL things work together for the GOOD of those who love God..." (Romans 8:28)

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Gouzoules 2010

Our birthday bash



Samuel-guapo



Ana in a parade & Indep. party with mom



cowboy!



Nico's 8th b-day



Feliz, feliz Navidad! & many blessing in 2011