



o August 2008



La Fiesta

Rev. 7:9-10

Grays in Mexico

www.teamwesley.org

REACHING ACROSS THE BORDER AND AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE HOPE OF JESUS CHRIST

On August 21, 2008 the Grays return to Puebla for another four-year term in Mexico. They will continue their work in Theological Education, raising up pastors and leaders for the Wesleyan Church in Mexico and Latin America.

Here We Go, Again!

All we can say is that God did it! All the details and finances seemed to fall into place miraculously at the last moment for us to be able to return to Mexico this month, after a year in the U.S. on Home Ministries. Many thanks to you who have prayed earnestly and have stepped out in faith to invest in the work in Mexico.

We have been Wesleyan missionaries since 1998 when we first left for Costa Rica to study Spanish and then went to Colombia for our first term. In 2003 we were reassigned to Mexico where we spent the next four years. Now, we are returning to Mexico with plans to work there for four more years.

Our mission is Theological Education. By multiplying ourselves in the lives of Mexican pastors and leaders, we know even more people will be reached with the hope of Jesus Christ.

Our work centers in the Pilgrim Bible Institute in Puebla, and in its extensions throughout Mexico. Bob teaches Theology, Bible, and ministry courses. Susie occasionally teaches short-term courses in Christian Education. Classes begin on August 25.

This term we will focus even more on extensions, online courses, and video correspondence to reach even more students and existing pastors. Bob will also be traveling to El Salvador to do short-term courses.

We will live in the same place as last term, a home on the Bible School campus in Puebla. Our children — Elisabeth (10), Aaron (8) and Sarah (7)— are enrolled this year in Puebla Christian School for missionary kids.

Please be in prayer for us as we return to the work and get settled in once again to life in Mexico. We can hardly wait to see what all God has in store for this term! Here we go, again!



Puebla, city of 3 million, is located about 100 miles southeast of Mexico City.

50/50 Vision

In Mexico there is (astonishingly) only one Catholic priest for every 10,000 Mexican people. Like sheep without a shepherd, people are hungry and searching for spiritual leadership. Even in our Mexican Wesleyan Church there are 149 churches and only 113 pastors. About half of these pastors are lay volunteers with little or no ministerial training.

Our vision is to see 50 new students graduate from the Bible School and its extensions, and also to see 50 existing pastors complete their studies for ordination in Wesleyan Church. Through our campus program, extensions and ever more creative distance learning (online and video correspondence), we believe this vision will become reality in the next four years. We can't do it without your prayers, without your financial investment, or especially without the Lord of the harvest. Pray that He will send workers into His harvest field in Mexico! (Mt. 9:35-38)





New Online Bible School for Latin America

There is a new Wesleyan Bible School in Latin America, located in cyberspace at www.ibwww.org. The site is bilingual (Spanish/English) and is aimed at helping Wesleyan students and pastors complete their studies for ordination wherever they are.

In January 2008 fellow GP missionary Jim Eckhardt (Nicaragua) launched a new online Bible School at www.ibwww.org. This was the next step after we had started a site with materials for teachers (www.cowete.org, which was previously our teamwesley.org site).

Bob and other Latin American educators are developing more courses to add to the site, and will be teaching online. Bob is also helping to further develop the site itself.

Bob and Jim met with the Bible School directors in Colombia May 12-16, 2008 to work on the site and promote it there.

Students from all over Latin America and beyond (several courses are offered bilingually) are now able to go online and take courses in ministerial training towards ordination requirements. The format is similar to correspondence, but is much more interactive and rapid.

This new option in distance learning will help greatly in our 50/50 vision to raise up 100 newly ordained pastors by the year 2012 in Mexico and El Salvador. The online Bible School will become a "virtual extension" of the Mexico Bible School (and others) to help train pastors and potential students who cannot come and study in our resident campus program or extensions. THANKS, JIM!

50/50

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Please email or call for our updated mailing address before sending regular mail to Mexico. Mail sent to us at Global Partners will also be forwarded to us.

Or watch for updates on our...

Website: www.teamwesley.org



News on Newsletters

This term we will do more with email and our website: www.teamwesley.org. We can maintain our site with email for a lot less than printing and mailing newsletters.

So, we are planning to cut back to one printed mailing a year during this term.

However, we will continue to keep our website updated with the latest news, photos and blogs (a kind of online journal). And we will send email updates often.

You can help us out by...

- Sending your current email address to grays@teamwesley.org, especially if you haven't received an email update from us in the last month.
- Making sure your junk email filters will allow emails from grays@teamwesley.org.
- Logging on to our website for updates and blogs: www.teamwesley.org.
- Letting us know if you simply don't do email and want to be on our "short list" to receive printed mailings from Mexico more often than a once a year.