



The Benedict Family

Your Missionaries to



Jerez, Mexico

March/April 2004

It has been a busy and exciting time for our family, both here in Jerez, as well as a few weeks back in the states. We have started working with an orphanage, seen more souls saved, been passing out seminary videos, attended a preacher's conference, had a graduation... the list goes on.

Let's start with the orphanage, or more appropriately, the Children's Home. It is named the Bethany Home, and it has twenty-nine wonderful children, and is run by missionaries Bob and Leetha Nicholson, with the help of Alejandro and Juanita, a Mexican family. We have been helping out there in whatever way we can; fixing things, playing with the kids, even helping feed the multitudes. We went out one day to fix a door, but when we arrived, we found a church from one of the neighboring towns had also shown up with about fifty extra people. They needed to be fed, so we switched hats from carpenters to chefs and helped make and serve lunch. We had a great time, but the door had to wait for another day.

When we were leaving for Mexico last June, our Pastor ordered some Spanish movies for us to share with the kids here. When the order arrived, they had included some seminary videos with the other tapes. We had no idea what we would do with them, as we weren't planning on starting up a seminary... we couldn't even speak the language! However, God makes no mistakes. We have met a man named José. He was telling us, "I have been called to preach, but I need to learn how." So, he has been going through the videos and loves them. Please pray for José and his wife Marta as they take on this challenge.



José & Marta

Towards the end of March, a missions group visited the orphanage from Tennessee. The pastor had been a missionary to Mexico a few years back, and both he and his wife spoke Spanish very fluently. He preached a Wednesday night service and there were eight souls saved that night. How exciting! I believe there were some American kids' lives changed forever on that trip as well. Mexico will do that to you. If you would like to schedule a mission trip here, let us know. We'd love to have you visit.

We made a trip back to the United States for part of April. Mary, our oldest daughter, had completed all of her school work, so it was time for a graduation ceremony. We had a great time, but it sure is good to be back home here in Jerez again. While in the States, we had the opportunity to attend a preacher's conference in Conway, Arkansas. It was without a doubt the best one I have ever attended. There were nineteen states and three countries represented. Thanks to Grace Baptist Church and Pastor Eddie Flowers for all their hard work in putting together a spectacular group of preachers and musicians for this endeavor.

Our travel back to the United States was not without incident. We had two, that's right, two flat tires. One we managed to limp into a tire shop, the other was out in the middle of nowhere. But God sent a taxi along not five minutes after, so we were able to go get a new one. Tires in Mexico are very expensive. After two hours of riding in a taxi and fifteen minutes of tire changing, we were back on the road. Then, just a little later, the truck started running really rough and we thought the fuel pump was going out. Praise the Lord, it was only the fuel filter. What we were thinking was going to be a \$300 repair turned out to be only \$6. God is good.

Thank you for supporting us and letting us be a part of your ministry. Please remember to pray for us as well as the people of Jerez, Mexico.

Your Partners in Christ,
Steve, Amber & Kids