



**A Supporting Ministry**

**October - November - December, 2002**

## First Huichol Indian Pastor Brings Gospel to His People

*By Karen Kotoske; President, Amistad International*

**W**e are happy to share the good news that the very first Huichol Indian has graduated from Theology. Lucas Ortiz, 23, is now working among his people, preaching the Gospel in their own language.

Nine years ago at age 14, Lucas, son of a Huichol Shaman, approached mission pilot Dagoberto Cirilo, and said, "Sir, I want to further my education. Can you help me?" Lucas' teachers and villagers gave him high recommendations, saying that he was a natural leader, popular with his peers and with village elders alike.

Dagoberto took Lucas to Colegio del Pacifico (Navajoa Academy) in Sonora, Mexico, where he was soon baptized. He did well through High School, then studied Theology at Colegio Linda Vista in south Mexico. In two more summers Lucas will have his degree in Teaching as well.

Back with his own tribe, Lucas serves as pastor and volunteer teacher in a Huichol high school. Though the Huichol people have been very resistant to the Gospel brought in by outsiders, they are much more open to having one of their own share God's word with them. Lucas is also a valuable pastoral assistant to mission pilot/pastor Dagoberto Cirilo.

Recently Dagoberto was asked to bring medical care to the village of Chalate. He chose September 11, 2002 to test the new airstrip alone. To his surprise, Dagoberto discovered he was the very first pilot to land there! He also discovered that many of the villagers are Baptists. They gave him a warm welcome, and pled with him to return. Lucas and a doctor accompanied Dagoberto on his next visit.

A few days later he received a call from Chalate to airlift a teacher who had been seriously wounded when he fell from his horse. A possible punctured lung made his case very urgent. It was already 4:15 p.m. Dagoberto sped towards the airport, since it is

illegal to fly a small plane in Mexico after dark. Flying time from Guadalajara to the Sierra is 50 minutes each way.

As Dagoberto hurried through the city, a traffic policeman pulled him over for going through a yellow light. He showed the officer his driver's license and said, "I am a mission pilot. I must get to the airport as fast as possible to save a man's life."

The policeman was unmoved and demanded that Dagoberto spend further time with him "working on this matter." Dagoberto replied, "Well, I'll have to disobey you. I must go immediately." The officer declared, "If you go, you'll be in big trouble." Dagoberto drove off anyway, leaving his driver's license in the officer's hand.

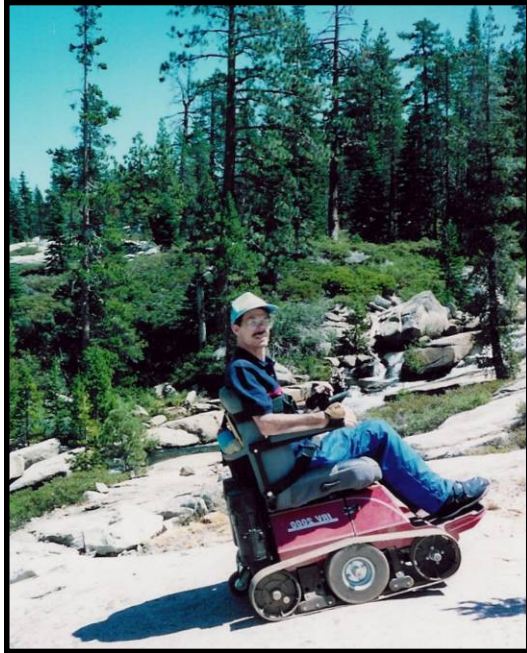
After another delay with officials at the airport, Dagoberto finally took off for Chalate. He picked up the injured man and returned to Guadalajara just before dark. After sending the man to a hospital via ambulance, Dagoberto went to the Traffic Police headquarters to get his driver's license, but it had not been turned in yet. While there he told one of the secretaries about our work in the Sierra Huichol and she showed a great deal of interest in our outreach. Dagoberto feels that perhaps the police station is one more place that God sent him!



*Lucas at age 14 in typical Huichol costume in front of mission plane*

*(continued on page 7)*

# A Challenge . . .



**Fred Adams in his amazing TracAbout, ready to go on the Chiapas Mission Trip!**

Dear MPI Friends,

Nearly 16 years have elapsed since I became paralyzed in a construction accident while serving at Linda Vista Academy in the mountains of Chiapas in southern Mexico. God opened the doors for me to continue serving in Chiapas for 10 more years, teaching computing, assisting with school industries, and coordinating some of MPI's projects.

Exactly one month before my accident, I hiked for nearly six hours, crossing three rivers and two mountain ranges to reach San Lorenzo. Surrounded by tropical jungles at the base of towering peaks, a neat, tidy school campus provided quality Christian education for the local Chamula Indian children. I was impressed by the initiative and vision of these bright folks.

Two years ago a group of 30 MPI members & friends visited San Lorenzo, this time driving in over a rough, newly-made road. The folks there were so delighted to see us! Members of our team pulled teeth and saw many patients. We didn't have the time or funding to build six new classrooms they need so badly, so we decided to return and do it next time.

Our trip is scheduled for March 6 to 16, 2003. Excited volunteers are ready to go. Expectant folks in San Lorenzo are thrilled that they will soon have their badly-needed classrooms. They have already moved forward in faith, hiring more teachers and expanding to a full 12-grade school with nearly 150 students.

Then last evening I received a phone call. "We just don't have the funds to carry out this project," said the voice on the other end. "The money hasn't been coming in.

## **MPI Members**

- President:** *Gary & Karen Andregg* - (Hope, ID)  
(208) 264-5487 800-905-5MPI(674)  
gbklandregg@nidlink.com
- Vice-President** *Melvin & Gladys Johnson* - (Hamilton, MT)  
(406) 363-3080
- Treasurer:** *Jerry & Wendy Harris* - (Castle Valley, UT)  
(435) 259-5987 daystar@lasal.net
- Newsletter and Communications:** *Fred & Diana Adams* - (Placerville, CA)  
(530) 642-9441 adams@directcon.net
- Huichol Project:** *Karen Kotoske* - (Palo Alto, CA)  
*Dagoberto Cirilo* - (Guadalajara, Mexico)
- Worthy Students:** *Gwen Emmerson* - (Billings, MT)  
*Philip & Sonatina Mitchell* - (Huntsville, AL)  
*Loron Wade* - (Montemorelos, Mexico)
- Other Members:** *Mel & June Anderson* - (Bozeman, MT)  
*Fred & Velma Beavon* - (Dayton, MT)  
*Harold & Norma Beavon* - (Gold Canyon, AZ)  
*Eddie & Lorraine Hamilton* - (Salmon, ID)  
*Derek & Frances Miller* - (Gentry, AR)  
*Elidia Walker* - (Superior, AZ)

**And we consider each person who supports us with your prayers and/or contributions to be part of the MPI family as well!**

**Website: [www.tagnet.org/mpi](http://www.tagnet.org/mpi)**

Maybe we'd better just take care of medical needs and cancel the construction project." Later I consulted with several other project members. "No way!" they responded. "We can't let those folks down in San Lorenzo. They're counting on us! This is God's project, and He will provide the funds. Let's continue with our plans and get those classrooms built!" And that's exactly what we plan to do. We need \$13,000 right away so building materials can be on site before our mission team arrives. Building contractor Eugene Witzel from Arkansas has kindly volunteered to go 10 days ahead of our group to have everything ready.

And I'm ready to go too! See the tank-like contraption I'm sitting on in the photo? That chair was provided for me through a series of miracles earlier this year, and it can take me where no wheelchair can go! Through water, mud, sand, loose dirt, up 40% grades—and now I'm ready to go crashing through the jungle at San Lorenzo as well! Of course I'll be checking up on construction and medical projects too.

Interested in joining us? See page 5 for further details. Things will be quite primitive there, but the rewards of being involved are truly worth the challenges we'll face!

**- Fred Adams**

# Special Feature

**Editor's note:** When the letter at right arrived, I was really touched, and decided to share it with the rest of our MPI family. Below is the reply I wrote to Krista, who just happens to be my niece who lives in Camden, Maine.

- Fred Adams

P.S. - I just found out that Krista is saving up her dollars to sponsor a layman for another month. Way to go, Krista!

Dear Friends,

My wife's mother, who is in a nursing home, recently had a stroke at 87 years old. We don't think she has much more time before she will fall asleep in Jesus.

While visiting with her the other day I was reading MPI's newsletter to Mom. I shared how little 9 year old Krista saved up \$175.00 to sponsor a whole lay worker. I told my mother-in-law how [Krista's] \$175.00 would help the lay worker bring at least four people to give their lives to Jesus, and those four converts would bring others to Jesus also.

Well, my mother-in-law thought that was just wonderful and she said she would like to do the same thing and sponsor a whole lay worker with \$175.00 of the money that the Lord has blessed her with.

I'm sure she will be pleased to know her investment will multiply until Christ returns in the clouds of heaven. May the Lord continue to bless you in the work that you are doing.

Yours in Christ,

Ted Kubicki

Dear Krista,  
I just called Ted Kubicki, who lives in Charlestown, NH. He told me that his aged mother-in-law lives in a nursing home after losing her husband, having a stroke and breaking a hip. But upon hearing your story, she said, "If a nine-year-old girl can make a sacrifice like that, then I can too. I don't have much money, but take \$175 out of my bank account and send it to MPI so I can sponsor a whole lay worker too!"

When Ted & his wife heard her say that, they decided to send \$175 as well. They shared the story in church, and several others decided they wanted to sponsor lay workers!

So your hard work is paying off, Krista. Your offering was a seed that is growing and multiplying, inspiring others to share as well. Who knows, when you get to Heaven, thousands of people may come to you and say, "Krista, I'm here because of YOU!"

Keep up your missionary spirit. The little things we do here on earth are making big differences - for eternity!

With Love,

Your Unkel Freddie



Known as "Beautiful Bertha" Eldred in the nursing home, this kindhearted lady was inspired by Krista's sacrificial giving. Here she holds a friend's baby.



Krista Medina



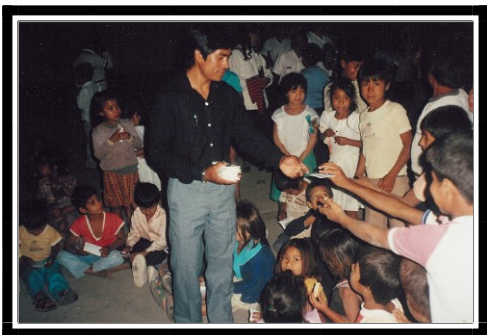
# Lay Workers

## Notes From All Over Mexico . . .

**Editor's note:** Each month we receive dozens of reports, pictures and stories from our laymen - some working in remote mountain areas, others in large cities throughout Mexico. Below are a few short excerpts from some of our laymen, including their names and the Mexican state they work in.

### Reyman Salazar, Chiapas

The *Steps to Christ* books and literature you provided for us have fallen as blessings from Heaven. These books are like a salt lick in a wooden trough, which the cattle eagerly lick with relish until nothing is left. That's how this material is received by people thirsty for the Gospel. I have distributed everything and need plenty more. Many poor people have been baptized, and they can't even afford a Bible. I hope you can send some.



*Editor's note: these folks will get their Bibles – all because some missionary-minded children - and grownups - here in the U.S. are sending their dollars to provide Bibles for Mexico. So far we have received enough money to purchase 263 Bibles! That may sound like a lot, but each layman will receive only six Bibles to share. And they certainly need a lot more than that. So keep saving up those dollars for Mexico Bibles! Each Bible costs only \$2.50—a real bargain. And an excellent Christmas gift for Jesus!*



### Isaí García – Oaxaca

Thanks to your donations, many persons are getting to know Jesus. May God bless you abundantly. Even though it may seem like our results are few, when Jesus comes and we are taken to Heaven, many will recognize you and express their gratefulness for your efforts here on earth.

### Senovio Reyes – Oaxaca

After working in a remote mountain area for several months, the people are beginning to respond positively. Now we need help for a little church building because the people are very poor. The house in which we meet is too small and the people don't fit inside. We have



already prepared a piece of land for the building. We are moving forward in faith, and even though we have no money, we are confident that God will provide.

### Teodoro Galán – Puebla

The believers in Tecamachalco send many greetings. They are very happy because their church has a roof on it, thanks to God and to the brethren from MPI. We would like to receive a post card from your country and a picture of the donors who helped us.



### Jair Díaz – Guerrero

During a recent baptism we know that the enemy was very mad, because things did not go well. While driving to the baptismal site, the pastor's car broke down. Another member's car lost a front wheel. After the baptism, a pickup with 15 passengers lost control and went down a 10-foot embankment. Passengers included children, elderly folks, and a girl

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Lay Workers

*(Continued from page 4)*

who just got baptized. We are grateful to God that nobody was hurt, and not a single drop of blood was shed. We believe God was with us in spite of all the problems we encountered.



## Senovio Reyes – Oaxaca

I am working in the remote mountain village of Yate. My work is difficult because there are bandits, and outsiders are not welcome.

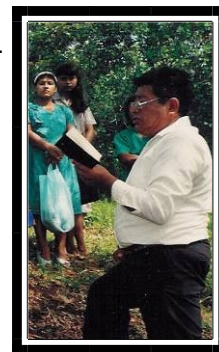
When I shared Bible pas-

sages with Señor Librado, he liked what he heard, but his eyesight is very poor.

So he hiked many hours through the mountains,



then got a bus to the city so he could have his eyes examined and get glasses. Now he is delighted that he can read the Bible for himself as we study together.



**Note:** The Lay Worker program has a \$25,000 deficit. Sadly, we may have to dismiss some of our laymen.



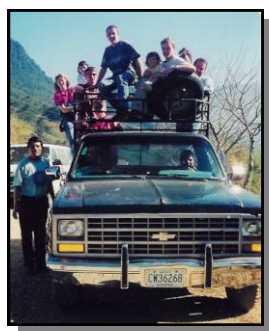
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*Spectacular mountain location*



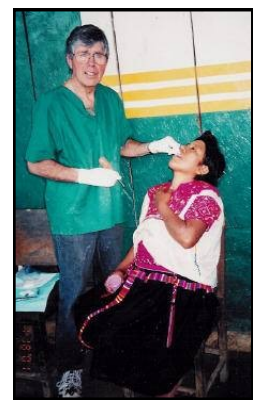
*Help relieve the suffering*



*Delicious tropical fruits*



*Build 6 badly needed classrooms*



*Pull some rotten teeth*

**Call Fred Adams at 530-642-9441 right away for an information packet!**



## Life-Changing Experiences in Belize

*By Victor August, LLL Chaplain & Evangelist*

The rain poured down in buckets as it pelted the rooftops at La Loma Luz. It was just beginning to get dark as 14 International Learning Service (ILS) students and their leaders arrived at our hospital compound. ILS is a non-denominational Christian organization aimed at allowing students to get first-hand learning experience through mission service.

The drenching rains refused to let up. Were the volunteers coming into hostile territory? Or were the rains, which brought a welcome relief to the blistering heat, a form of welcome to them too? They soon found out.



*ILS volunteers at La Loma Luz.*

During the next two weeks the ILS team worked between San Ignacio and Belize City at various medical facilities. La Loma Luz catered to them with a place to

sleep, vegetarian meals and most of all, a comfortable, relaxed learning environment. The students, many of whom were undecided as to what career to choose, left convinced that they wanted to pursue a medical career. In its own unique way, La Loma Luz allowed the students to gain a wide world of experience in the medical field, from taking vital signs and x-rays to assisting in the operating room.

The faces of the students radiated with excitement as day by day new experiences cemented themselves in their minds. For these 14 students their medical mission trip to Belize was proving to be an unforgettable one.

Volunteer Stephanie Kirk really enjoyed the daily worships at LLL. Realizing something was missing in her life, she approached the chaplain. She had many questions, and was very impressed when all his answers came directly from the Bible. Some of her friends drank in these truths as well. Stephanie



*Joyful Stephanie & friend now in love with Jesus*

gave her life completely to Jesus, and was baptized after attending church for the first time on God's holy Sabbath day. She felt such overwhelming joy, and continues growing in her walk with Jesus.

When the time came for the group to return to the United States, the words "I don't want to leave, I wish I could stay" were uttered time and again. In the end, many a tear-stained face boarded Taca Airlines bound for Houston, Texas. They wrote a few days later expressing their heartfelt desire to one day serve in the mission field.

Here at La Loma Luz, this is just one more way of touching lives. Our precious youth now realize the needs and discover new ways to serve humanity. So far this year we have opened our doors to seven mission teams who have truly served us well.

**We exist temporarily through what we take,  
but we live forever through what we give.**

# Special Occasion & Memori-

(Continued from page 1)

Dagoberto and pastor Lucas will continue flying to Chalate to share the Gospel. We are so grateful that God has sent this fine young Huichol Indian pastor to start a new era in Huichol ministry. And your donations to the Student Aid fund, Lay Worker program and Huichol Project have made all this possible.



*Huichol Indian Lucas graduating with Theology degree in May, 2002*

## In Memory . . .

**Emmerson, Lee Roy**

*By Vickie Sage*

**Locke, David**

*By Don & Marilyn Locke*

**Wiebold, Larry & Lonnie (dear sons)**

*By Ruth Wiebold*

## Praise . . .

**Daughter's job will last several more months.  
Our church group is unified.**

*By Carol Liles*

## Prayer . . .

**For worldly children & grandchildren**

*Unless otherwise specified, your Memorial and Special Occasion gifts are used to purchase literature and other evangelistic materials for use by our laymen.*

**MPI staff serve as volunteers from their homes across the country. Our overhead expenses are low, and covered from other sources.**

**This makes it possible for us to send 100% of your contributions to the MPI projects you designate.**

### MEMORIAL & SPECIAL OCCASION GIVING

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## What is MPI?

**Mission Projects, Incorporated** is a supporting organization of the Seventh-day Adventist church, dedicated to spreading the Gospel by way of medical, educational and evangelistic endeavors. M.P.I. works in complete harmony with local Conferences and Missions, and is a member of Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (A.S.I.).

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*Indicate amount donated to each fund*

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\_\_\_\_\_ Spanish Literature  
\_\_\_\_\_ San Lorenzo Teacher Salaries  
\_\_\_\_\_ Worthy Student Fund  
\_\_\_\_\_ Bibles for Mexico

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Lay Workers  
\_\_\_\_\_ Lacandón Indian Project  
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## Moving?

Please send us your new address 4 to 6 weeks in advance. That will save us the additional expense of forwarded or returned newsletters. Thanks!

**October - November - December, 2002**