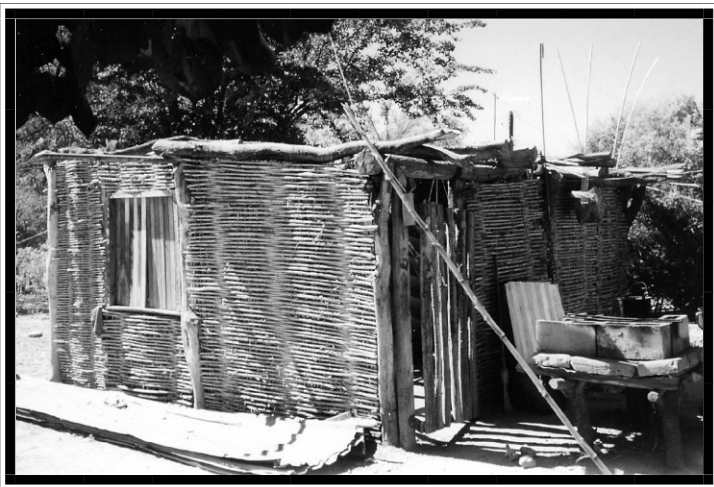


Stop those Sabbatarians!

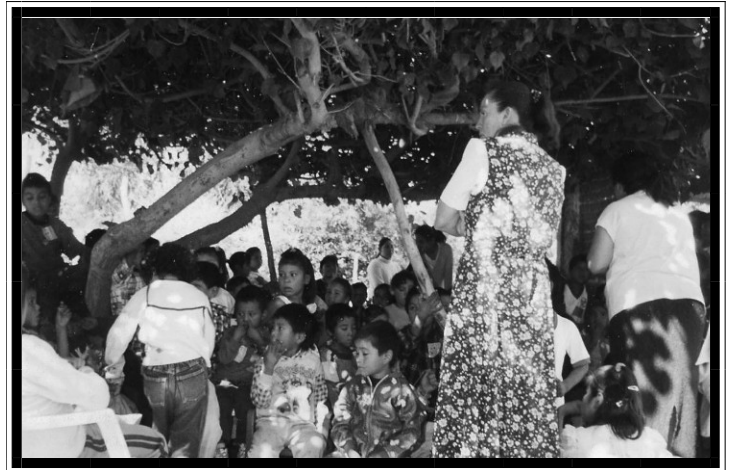
By Diana & Fred Adams

On the dusty streets of Potam, a rowdy mob of Yaqui Indians gathered around their town Governor as the leader voiced their complaint. “You’ve got to stop the building of that Sabbatarian church! The walls are already halfway up. Their beliefs go against our teachings and traditions!” All eyes focused intently on Governor Molina as he took in the situation thoughtfully. Finally, he spoke carefully and deliberately. “You know, when we go into our church on Sundays, we go through the motions of praying and acting reverent. But what happens afterwards? We head for the nearest *cantina* (bar), and before long we’re all drunk and sprawled in the streets. If you see that happening at the Sabbatarian church, then we will consider stopping them.”

Less than a year earlier, layman David Pérez entered this remote town, located in a hot, dry desert of Sonora state in northern Mexico. Most of the people are poor and live in tiny dwellings made of poles interwoven with stiff grass-like canes plastered



House of Rafael Choqui, one of the the first Yaqui converts in Potam who donated land for the church



New believers in Potam met under a tree to worship

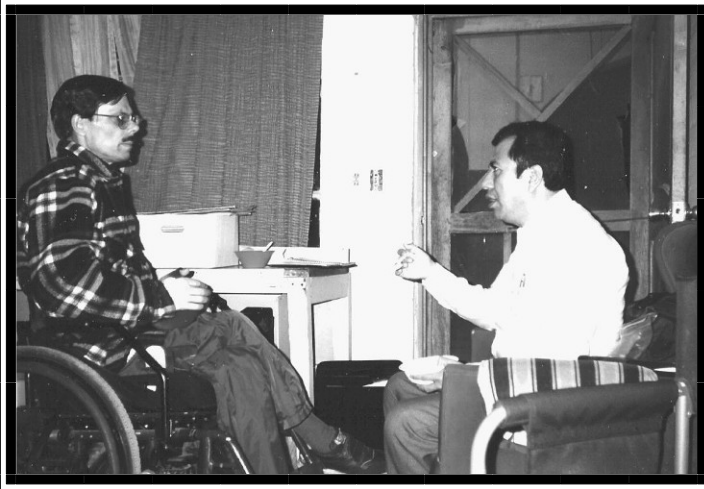
with mud. Little by little David made friends with some of the families and shared the Gospel with them. Rafael Choqui felt convicted right away about keeping the Sabbath, because he saw it for himself in his own Bible.

Rafael invited neighbors and friends to worship each week under a large shade tree in his yard. But many of the townspeople were very upset about this new religion invading their town. One Sabbath morning, a large, noisy mob approached the Adventist worshipers. They carried sticks and machetes, shouting angry threats as they descended upon the small helpless group. The believers huddled together and prayed fervently for God’s protection. Suddenly, the noisy mob stopped, looking surprised. They immediately dispersed, fleeing in fear of something the believers couldn’t even see.

As the group grew, Rafael decided to donate a portion of his land for a church building. In spite of further threats and opposition, the cement block church was completed within a few months. Funds

(Continued on page 5)

Guest Editorial



Fred Adams (left) and North Chiapas Conference Treasurer Eliezer Gómez chat during Board meeting

Dear Friends,

This year after MPI Board meeting at San Carlos Bay in northwest Mexico, we did something we'd never done before. During 13 years we have supported laymen, read their fascinating stories and admired pictures of their accomplishments while taking the Gospel to unentered areas. But as a group we had never seen the results of their work firsthand.

Our visit to Potam gave us this opportunity. We worshiped in a recently-completed church building, filled with enthusiastic, active, happy adults and children. Many went to the front to sing praises and share their testimonies. A builder stepped forward and shared his struggles as a new Christian, having just been baptized as a result of working on the church with new believers. The ex-Governor shared his conviction about leaving things of the world for a better way of life. His grown daughter told how thrilled she was to learn so many exciting truths, and how God healed her daughter when she was baptized.

During the sermon I shared the story from II Chronicles 20, where Judah was surrounded by enemies. King Jehoshaphat received this encouraging message: "Do not be afraid or discouraged . . . For the battle is not yours, but the Lord's." I also shared how I became paralyzed 15 years ago, the struggles I have experienced living in a wheelchair, and the many ways God can work through trials in our lives.

MPI Members

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- La Loma Luz:** *William Borland* - (San Ignacio, Belize)
- Huichol Project:** *Karen Kotoske* - (Palo Alto, CA)
Dagoberto Cirilo - (Guadalajara, Mexico)
- Worthy Students:** *Gwen Emmerson* - (Billings, MT)
Philip & Sonatina Mitchell - (Tallahassee, FL)
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)
Jerry & Wendy Harris - (Moab, UT)
Mel & Gladys Johnson - (Hamilton, MT)
Elydia Walker - (Superior, AZ)

And we consider each person who supports us with your prayers and/or contributions to be a member of MPI as well!

Website: www.tagnet.org/mpi

At the end of the service, a mother requested special prayer for her sick daughter. When asked about the nature of the sickness, the mother explained that her teenage daughter was often tormented by evil spirits. The mother and daughter came forward, where several of us wrapped them in our arms and prayed. It was a very special moment. I could feel the warmth of God's presence in a very tangible way as we claimed the power of Jesus to hold back the forces of evil in this girl's life.

Afterwards we ate and fellowshiped together with these new Christians, stayed for the afternoon meeting, and finally had to say adios as we headed back to San Carlos. Nothing can compare with a visit to the front lines of evangelism. And we can assure you that your mission dollars are truly making a difference - we saw the results firsthand!

- Fred Adams

Fred Adams writes from Placerville, California

MPI Visit to Potam Results in Gift of Sight to Blind Boy

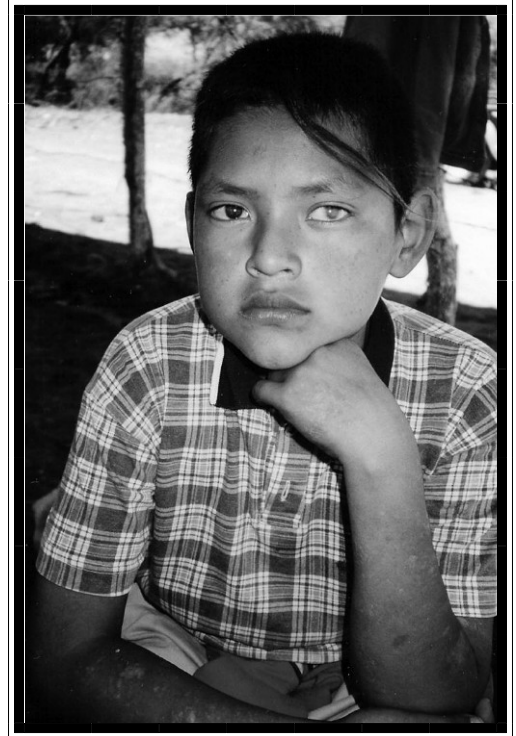
By Karen Kotoske, President of Amistad International

During our visit to the new little Potam church, a mother presented her 10-year-old son Luis to me. "He needs a cornea," she told me. "He's totally blind in one eye and can barely see from the other." It just so happened that I'd been working with an eye bank in Redlands, California who'd agreed to send a cornea for a Huichol woman. I thought to myself that perhaps they might donate a second cornea. Pastor Camacho, the Conference president pulled out a cell phone and immediately made arrangements with an Adventist eye surgeon in Ciudad Obregón to do the surgery.

I contacted the eye bank

when I got home, and to my delight they agreed to donate a cornea for Luis! So on March 20, a team of doctors from Loma Linda University who were going on a volunteer project in that area, transported the cornea to Mexico. Dr. García implanted the cornea on March 21.

Luis returned to his home in Potam, and was back in church on March 31. He can see much better now, and expressed his thankfulness for the gift of sight. And we are grateful that our kind Lord sent us to Potam that day so His precious little child, Luis Choqui, could have renewed eyesight. Now Luis's grandmother wants to be baptized - what thrilling news!



Luis Choqui had no hope of seeing again until MPI visited his town

Bibles for Mexico - A Special Project for Kids!



Hey kids! Do you want to do something special for the Lord? Here's how YOU can be a missionary!

For only \$2.50 you can buy a Bible for someone in Mexico. Here are a few examples of how you can raise money:

- ☐ Taking care of your neighbors' plants or animals while they are away
- ☐ Doing extra jobs for Mom and Dad
- ☐ Selling potted plants or fresh flowers
- ☐ Sharing your allowance money
- ☐ Sharing some of your special birthday money
- ☐ Going without something you really want and using that money

Use the form on the back where it says, "Bibles for Mexico" and send the money to MPI. Be sure to tell us how you earned it. We would love to know! Thanks kids, you really can make a difference - for eternity!

- Wendy Harris



Lay Worker Project

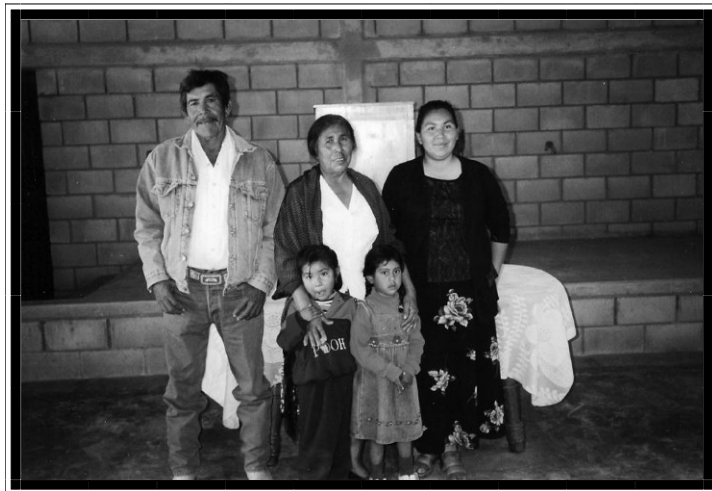
No Tangible Results? We Just Didn't Know!

By Mel Anderson

We really enjoyed our time with all of the MPI Board members at San Carlos, but our visit to the town of Potam was a real highlight. The people there had worshiped together under a tree until they could build a church. Elydia Walker translated as several lay workers told how the church got started. The first layman began visiting with the local people, and within a few months a young man was impressed to give property he had inherited to build the church on. Others told about the problems they encountered as they began to build, for some of the townspeople were determined to stop the construction.

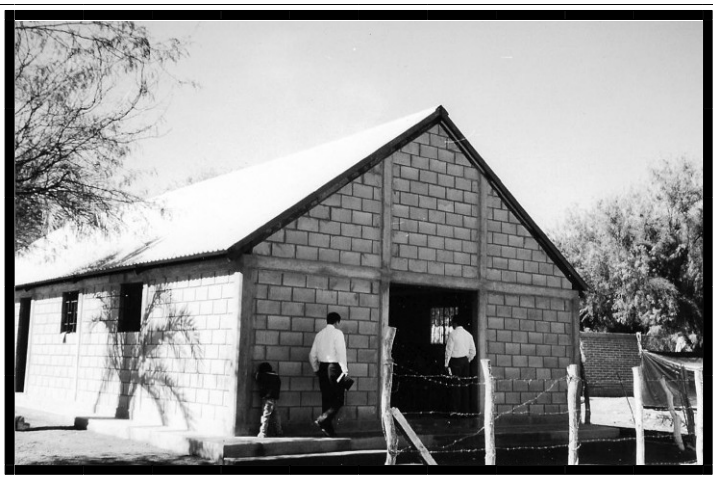
The Governor's daughter told of how her father was skeptical of these "strange people." He told his daughter to watch and see if they were like those who attended the traditional church, where they went directly to the bars after church to get drunk. Instead these "strange people" loved, accepted, helped, and guided her to a new way of life. The Governor and his wife ended up being baptized just 4 weeks before we arrived. There are now 29 baptized members with 60 to 70 visitors and children attending. It is mind-boggling to think there was nothing there two years ago.

I was really impressed with the church building – the workmanship was excellent. When you look at the houses they live in, you realize the sacrifices they have made. It was exciting to see the joy on the faces of the children when we passed out toys. Several expectant mothers were thrilled to receive baby clothes our group had brought.



Potam's former Governor Crispin Molina (left) with his wife, daughter Georgina and grandchildren

In Sabbath School class that day, I voiced the discouragement I felt of not ever seeing any tangible results from God's working in my own life like I saw in these devoted lay workers. After going back to San Carlos that evening, Fred Adams reminded me of an MPI meeting two years ago where a request was made to sponsor three laymen in the state of Sonora. But funds were available for only two workers. That was when June and I decided to sponsor the 3rd lay worker, but we had no idea where he was working or what he was doing. Much to our surprise and delight, that third lay worker was the one who started the church in Potam! The reality of how God uses each of us in unknown ways is so humbling. We feel like it was truly a privilege to spend that unforgettable Sabbath in Potam. Our hearts will never be the same after going on this trip!



Newly completed church in Potam built by Yaqui believers reflects excellent workmanship

Mel Anderson and his wife June live in the hills near Bozeman, Montana. Mel buys old vehicles, fixes them up, and sells them to raise funds to support a layman in Mexico.



Worthy Student Aid

No Hope Without a Mediator

By Philip Mitchell

Do you realize that you are in debt? Your future is a hopeless impossibility unless someone speaks on your behalf: Jesus.

Felipe Triana Morales is in debt – financially. His future is a hopeless impossibility, but someone has spoken on his behalf: Pastor Hugo Cáceres.

Pastor Cáceres, one of the Theology teachers at Linda Vista, commends Felipe as a “. . . conse-

crated Seventh-day Adventist who helps his church as Youth Director and also serves as Sabbath School teacher.” Felipe works 5 hours a day to work for his studies. His father is an unskilled laborer whose income is only enough to buy food. “Even though he does not have enough time to study, Felipe is very responsible with his obligations and a very dedicated church member.”

Thank you for investing in the future of worthy needy students like Felipe!



Felipe Triana Morales, grateful to MPI donors who are helping him complete his education.

Stop those Sabbatarians!

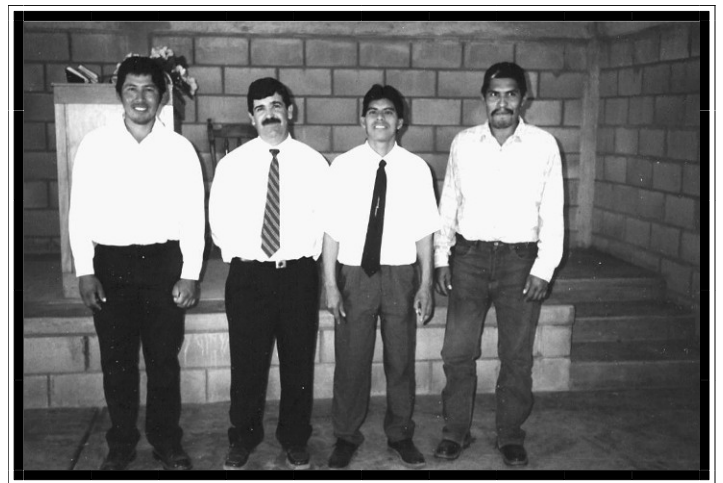
(Continued from page 1)

provided by the Conference and MPI donors, combined with donated time and financial sacrifices by the new believers made this possible.

The townspeople noticed positive changes in the new believers. No more drinking meant a happier, healthier lifestyle, money for food and better clothing, and love for their enemies. The women voluntarily removed their ornaments, a testimony to lives changed by Jesus in place of worldly traditions. Governor Molina's grown daughter Georgina began studying her Bible and became convinced she wanted to join the Adventist believers. Her young girl had been sick with a chronic cough for many months. Georgina requested special prayer from the Adventist believers, and on the day she was baptized, her little girl was healed.

Reluctant at first, Governor Molina and his wife began attending the Adventist church, and were greatly impressed. Many townspeople opposed his decision, and threatened him with loss of his position. But Molina felt convicted that following God was more important than political power. He and his wife were baptized in January, 2002. Now Molina is ex-Governor of Potam, but a happy citizen of God's kingdom.

Within less than two years, laymen sponsored through MPI, empowered by the Spirit of God, raised up a thriving group of new believers. And native Yaqui Indian Rafael Choqui, who donated land for the church, is now leading this group who continues spreading the Gospel among their tribe.



L to R: Rafael Choqui (who donated land for church), laymen David Pérez & Manuel Jiménez (who brought the Gospel to Potam) and Juan Cantú (converted while building church)

Special Project

The Road Less Traveled

By Lorraine Hamilton

As we prepared to go to Mexico for the MPI Board meeting, we knew it would be a great opportunity to take the Copper Canyon train trip. Starting near sea level, this train climbs to over 8,000 feet elevation, an amazing engineering feat that takes passengers over 39 bridges and through 86 tunnels. People from around the world go there to see all kinds of fascinating wildlife, the famed Tarahumara Indians and an incredibly deep and beautiful chasm five times larger than the Grand Canyon.



MPI group in Mexico

Others really wanted to go too, and we decided to take our trailers along. At the Mexican border we got tourist and vehicle permits for the state of Sonora only, not realizing that the Copper Canyon was beyond Sonora. We were very disappointed, but the Lord had another plan for us.

At the Board meeting, we heard about a Church school in an Indian village up in the mountains that badly needed painting inside the classrooms. Mel & June Anderson from Montana decided to go with us. We stopped by Cd. Obregón to get paint, not knowing what color or how much to get. We picked an aqua color that looked nice and got 15 gallons.

Several hours later we arrived at Tezopaco. The school building was in deplorable shape, with paint peeling everywhere. Large gaping holes where plaster

had disintegrated exposed bare bricks underneath. The assistant principal asked us to please paint the outside, since it would make the school appear much better to the public. We explained that we only had interior paint. Then my husband Eddie read the label, and can you believe it . . . it said interior/exterior! Well, that changed everything!!!! The Lord had given us just what was needed. And the color we'd picked was just a tiny shade off from the original, therefore it wouldn't take nearly as much paint.

The building was about 3/4 of a block long with a covered patio. We'd brought a bag of plaster mix to patch the holes, but we ended up having to get a small truckload of sand and many bags of cement for enough plaster to fill in all those big gaps. Eddie took a little wire brush (all we had with us), and started getting off as much of the flaking paint as possible. There wasn't enough water to even spray down the dust, so we swept as much as we could and started painting. Talk about a Mexican paint job, this was it! As we worked, we all prayed that the Lord would keep the paint on - at least long enough for us to get out of town!

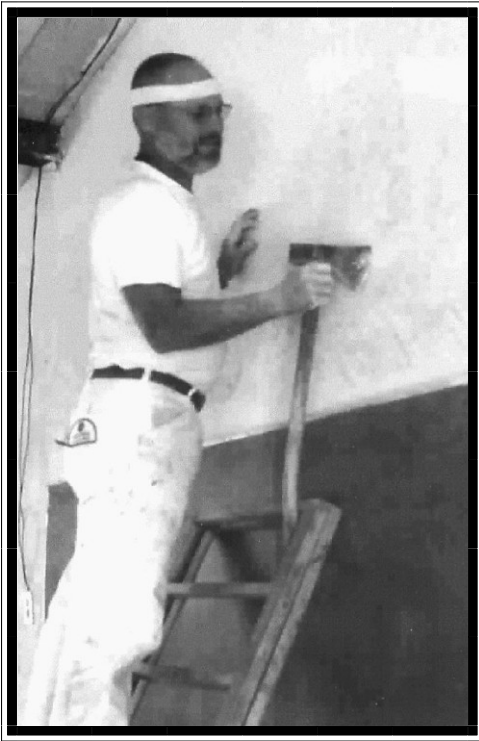
We started working at 11:30 a.m. and kept going until dark. Little kids came by in droves. With lots of gestures, pantomimes and a few Spanish words we managed to make friends. We were soooooo dirty and tired, but felt good about what had been accomplished.



Newly-painted school buildings at Tezopaco

Special Project

Early the next morning we started in again, and by noon we were just about done with three sides of the building. The back side couldn't be painted until major repairs happened.



Eddie Hamilton scraping paint with axe in Tezopaco classroom

We realized that we still had time to paint one classroom inside. The teacher, not knowing we were coming, had just the week before started the children scraping old paint from the walls up as high as they could reach. They had been praying that someone would come and help them. We had no grinders - only a scraper and putty knife. The guys decided they really needed something faster, so they located a shovel, an axe, and two fold-up camping shovels. You can't believe the dust, noise and work involved in such an endeavor! My arms and

upper back just about fell off before we were through with the room (25' x 25'). Students and staff helped us too. We cleaned up the dust and had the room painted by 6:00 p.m.

After a delicious meal at the Pastor's house, he invited us to a bonfire at 8:30 p.m. We were soooooo tired.

I wasn't really interested - I just wanted to go to bed. But the others insisted we go for just a few minutes. To our surprise, when we got there we discovered that the whole party was in our honor! The church family had planned this as a thank you for our work. They gave us gifts, sang traditional Mexican songs accompanied by guitar, and had special prayer for us. We felt so humbled and honored that the great God of heaven had planned this whole thing long before we even started our trip. These wonderful people had prayed for someone to come, and God had used us to answer that prayer.

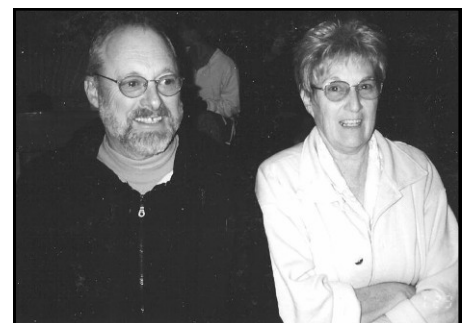
We had to leave the next morning so we could get back to the border before our Mexico insurance expired. Yet so much more needs to be done. Five more classrooms need to be repaired and painted. The roof needs work. The back needs to be repaired and painted. They want to equip a room for computer training. The student enrollment is 58, and of that number, 60% are not Adventist Christians. The children's desks are in awful shape, and they only have one soccer ball to play with. If anyone wants a project for



There's still plenty to do at Tezopaco school!

their group, this is a great place to go. Current needs include school desks, computers, playground equipment, and repairs on the buildings. Take your pick. We were so impressed with the dedication of the teachers in spite of so little to work with. Yet the townspeople are grateful for this school where their children can obtain a good Christian education.

What a whirlwind trip, but oh, so fulfilling, all because we decided to take the road less traveled.



Eddie & Lorraine Hamilton have their own business called "Hamilton Painting" and live in Salmon, Idaho. When they can get away, they like to visit remote Mexican villages where they enjoy fitting eyeglasses, distributing clothing, and painting deplorable-looking school buildings.

Not Prepared to Die

By Collet Montejo, LLL Chaplain & Evangelist

Marcedonio Guerra came to La Loma Luz suffering from a severe nervous breakdown. While lying in his hospital bed, God revealed Himself to Marcedonio, and told him to call the chaplain. I visited with him, and after Marcedonio's release, continued studying the Bible with him and his family. Mr. Guerra tells us his story . . .

"For 30 years of my life I really believed I was serving God. One night, God told me I needed to be baptized. I had never thought about that before, and really did not deem it necessary. Then I got ill and felt the cold hands of death creeping upon me. I saw that I was not prepared to die in peace with my God. In desperation I cried out to God, begging Him to give me just one more

chance. I told God that if He spared my life I would be baptized; into which church I did not know. To clear the cobwebs from my mind God gave me another dream. This time He gave me the individual into whose church I should be baptized. He distinctly and audibly told me to call Chaplain Montejo. So I did.

"During the weeks and months to come, I had question after question, and always got an answer from the Bible. I wanted so badly to be baptized, but I was scared. I came up with every excuse in the book to postpone my baptism. About two weeks prior to my baptism, I had another dream. I seemed to be passing through an arch while my family followed behind me. God told me then that if I took the step to be baptized like I had promised, my entire family would

follow. I decided then and there to do it. Two of my sons had already been baptized into the Adventist church and I felt ashamed for not having gone before them.

"On Friday evening December 7, 2001, under the inspiration of God,



Marcedonio & wife being baptized

I rose to the appeals given by Elder Montejo. That night at 10:15 p.m. I was baptized, joined by my wife, daughter and son in the warm waters of the Macal River. It was the greatest feeling! I praise God that He brought me home to a people who show genuine love and care. Home at last with the family of God!"

La Loma Luz is located in the small tropical country of Belize, east of Guatemala, on the Caribbean. This "Light on a Hill" serves the people of Belize with a complete clinic and hospital including major surgeries and dental work. Several thousand people are treated each year.



Tent meetings held in Hillview led to many baptisms

News Flash

With space quickly becoming an endangered species here at La Loma Luz, our hospital Board, led by administrator Bill Borland, has embarked on a new expansion project. The addition, extending off the doctor's offices, will house our new Dental office and Physical Therapy rooms.

The Bible states that where there is no vision, the people perish. We thank God for the vision and leadership of our administration. The expansion is scheduled to be completed in May of this year.



Memorial & Special Occasion

In Memory

Anderson, Bertha
By Mrs. Cleo Anderson

Bieber, Edwin
By Ruth Wiebold

Birnel, Ron
By Wayne Moore

Boucher, Sharon
By Celian & Betty Adams

Bresnaken, Dan
By Wayne Moore

Bunn, Ray
By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke

Byrd, David
By William & Lettie Byrd

Byrd, Fletcher
By William & Lettie Byrd

Clark, Don
By Vernon & Joan Poole

Crites, Pat
By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke

Daniel, Pat
By Arvel & Vernita Sage

Donesky, Conroy
By Rollin & Lillian Anderson
Robert & Martha Donesky

Frickle, Helen
By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke
Rose Tininenko

Giebelhouse, Flossie (Sallie)
By Raymond Giebelhouse

Griffith, Margie
By Arvel & Vernita Sage
John & Ruth Sipkens

Harris, Gordon
By Mrs. Nan Harris

Haugse, Gertrude
By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke

Heiman, Lois
By Mrs. Cleo Anderson

Heseltine, Waldo
By Joy Halstead

Honn, Elder C.D.
By Alice Brantley

Keeney, Faith
By Ray Keeney

Kurtz, Nettie & Bert
By Ruth Weibold

Looney, Coralee
By Lloyd Looney

Loop, Millie
By Lloyd Looney

Lukens, Marie
By R. Lukens, MD

MacLafferty, Phyllis
By Esther McClusky

Mundall, Raymond
By Bernard Mundall

Parfitt, Dr. Leonard
By Charles Jordan

Ratcliff, Dean
By Dorothea Knapp

Seibold, Stephen
By Mrs. Winona Seibold

Stephens, Marguerite
By Alice Brantley

Walker, Dorothy Hill
By John & Ruth Sipkens

Wallace, Beverly
By Ruth Weibold

**In Honor of our children, their
wives and our grandchildren**
By Fred & Velma Beavon

Lindsey Garbutt 99th Birthday
By Kitty Walker

*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.**

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In behalf of: _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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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.).

Please return this card with your tax-deductible donation to:


M.P.I. ♦ P.O. Box 1090 ♦ Gentry, AR 72734

Indicate amount donated to each fund

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_____ Huichol Humanitarian Work
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_____ San Lorenzo Teacher Salaries
_____ Worthy Student Fund
_____ Bibles for Mexico

\$ _____ Lay Workers
_____ Lacandón Indian Project
_____ Church Roofs
_____ Church Construction
_____ Use as Needed
_____ Other _____

We encourage you to support your local church with your tithes & offerings also.

I'd like to make my gift by charge card: ☐  Visa ☐ ☐  O Mastercard

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Name _____ Signature: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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!

March - April 2002