



March 2010

# On the Wings of Prayer

“Because thou hast been my help, therefore in the shadow of thy wings will I rejoice.” Psalm 63:7



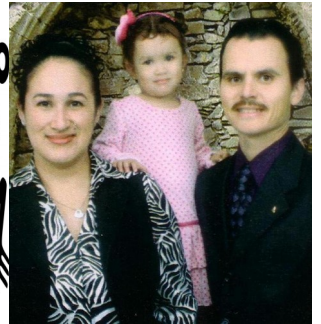
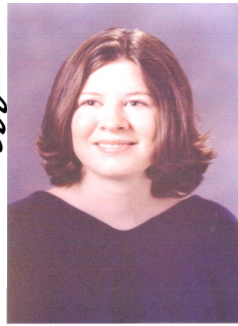
## Mission Director's Message

By John Peebles, IBFI Mission Director

There is no better investment in eternity than giving out the soul saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is the most needed message both here in the States and around the world. Inflation and falling exchange rates have caused many missionaries to do more with less. Political and natural instability and disaster also loom as giants that must be faced. It is through opposition, persecution and hardship that we face special opportunities to demonstrate our faith in the Lord. As we trust Him and as He answers prayers, we have a time of sowing that will doubtless bring forth fruit. May God grant that times of great trials bring forth great faith and great victory in Jesus Christ. God is faithful. Let us also be faithful. Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support for the IBFI Mission Office and missionaries!

## Missionaries in Mexico - Brave Warriors for the Lord!

### Dealing with Drug Violence, Traditions & Cults



#### by STEVE & MARY EARLYWINE

Some of the things we deal with are coping with cultural conflicts or the way things are done here (i.e. when the church service starts at 6 pm people don't leave home until then). Our state of Nuevo Leon is the third worst for crime, drugs, car thieves, murders, & the black market of cars & people. The police are corrupt and deal on the black market. Drugs are widespread. The army & federal police are present most of the time on the streets. We don't go out alone or stay out late. You always have to watch your money because they'll shortchange you in change or what you are buying. We also have to deal with Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons & Pentacostalists.

#### by DAN & MICHELLE JONES

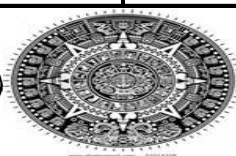
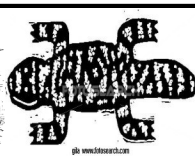
According to the Boston Globe, in December of 2006, Mexico's new President Felipe Calderón declared war on the drug cartels, reversing earlier government passiveness. Since then, the government has made some gains, but at a heavy price - gun battles, assassinations, kidnappings, fights between rival cartels, and reprisals have resulted in over 9,500 deaths since December 2006 - over 5,300 killed last year alone. In Nuevo León, our state, we have had our share of troubles including several skirmishes between the army and drug cartels in San Nicolás (where we live) and on the highway between Monterrey and Reynosa (which  
**Continued on Next Page . . .**

#### by MELISSA HOUSTON

Satan has sure been fighting us here in Bethesda, and I ask for your special prayers for protection and guidance for these people. Several of the church people have been threatened, and there have been several serious illness, including Michelle Jones, who has been battling an infection in her lungs. There have been too many instances of trials and tribulations to recount to you, but I pray that God will use all of these to strengthen the church of Christ here in Monterey, Mexico. On a lighter note, I have really been enjoying teaching the kids here. They are so precious! I

#### by DARRAIN & MARI COKER

Here in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, we come in conflict with many different religions. The Jehovah Witnesses are the majority in our area. One of the Christian ladies that comes to the church invited her twenty-two-year-old nephew, Raul, to come to one of the church services. Raul came for a couple of weeks. My wife Mari and I went to visit him and his words were, "I have visited with the Jehovah Witnesses and one thing I never heard was that God loves me...!" On this visit we shared the love of God in Jesus Christ and Raul trusted Christ as Savior. When we have the truth, conflicts are overcome because of the victory in Jesus Christ!



**DANNY JONES ARTICLE CONT.** borders with Texas). The newspapers have come out with headlines that read: "Insecurity forces change in personal habits and family outings." They give tips on how to avoid and confront from carjackings to being kidnapped and armed robbery to muggings. The drug and law enforcement confrontation has begat many who are trying to profit from all of the confusion. On one side, there are those who offer "protection" and on the other side, those who try to extort and swindle. We are in a current special "week of prayer" in our church because of all of the violence that is occurring around us. Many of our people have been threatened by phone and two members at one time were kidnapped, one by a local group of extortionists and the other by a drug group. We ask that you join us in prayer for our safety and the safety of our people and churches. As far as I know, none of the missionaries have been in any real danger up to this time, but things could get out of hand real soon. We are taking precautions to keep a low level, like changing daily routines and routes for transport, and not giving public financial disclosures at the church as to how the treasury is. In spite of all of this, there is good news. We will continue to knock on doors, reach out to the lost, baptize believers, and teach nationals until the Lord tells us to go elsewhere. Many are participating in praying and more are out soul-winning than usual. There is a prospect of being able to buy or rent some land that would enable us not to have to build an underground parking for the new building we plan to build! Brethren, pray for us!

## News & Prayer Requests



**Melissa Houston (Mexico)** writes, "Much has been happening here in Monterrey. The church at Bethesda, pastored by Daniel Jones, finally signed government papers & can start building the new bldg! For years, they have been holding two morning services to accommodate everyone because they had outgrown the current bldg. Sunday nights tend to be crowded, and if there is a special service they use a TV monitor for the overflow of people. It is exciting to have the right papers to start building. It came in God's perfect timing. God is good, all the time!"



**Darrain & Mari Coker (Mexico)** write, "My wife and I continue to administrate the Sunday school program. I am very thankful to be able to communicate the Word of God more in Spanish. When teaching I use a Spanish Bible, Spanish lesson book, and laminated visuals. One person said, 'I am learning and understanding more of the Bible,' with a big smile on her face. Glory to God! Please pray for spiritual growth of the Christians attending the church; for Pastor Guadalupe Ruiz in leading the church; for our spiritual & physical strength; and for our one-year furlough starting Sept. 2010 when we travel to our supporting churches and raise more support for church planting."



**Steve & Mary Earlywine (Mexico)** "We are moving and will not be on the internet for a while. The house to which we are moving is closer to the mission work and rent/other bills will be cheaper. There is no phone line in at this time, so we will write soon as we get back on. Thank you for your prayers and you are in ours also."



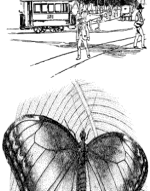
**Bill & Sharon Smith (Brazil)** "We received an email from a young lady in Novo Airao, the church we started back in 1975. She is now 37 years old. She wrote on her email "Fruit of Your Ministry." Her grandfather was saved and attended our church. Her father was killed very young and the mother raised three girls. She thanked us for teaching them the Word of God. She is now saved and attending a church in Novo Airao. What a blessing for us to hear a testimony like that. The people in town are preparing for "Carnival" and all the carnal things that go along with it. Please pray for our protection on the highways as there will be many drunk drivers on the roads."



**Harold & Lena Priday (Honduras)** "The Ladies Conference went very well. We are grateful for Martha & Johnny Johnson from Weatherford, TX, our sending church, for coming & holding the conference. Lena was the translator & I was the go-getter or errand boy. I brought about 11 ladies in my pickup & 54 ladies were present. Counting children & workers there were 79 one night. The Lord really moved. We have seen a number saved & ready for baptism. We thank the Lord for each soul saved. Satan is very present in trying to discourage them. We are busy getting ready for youth camp the week of Easter. There will be churches from across the country bringing their youth. This is a very dangerous time to be on the roads in Honduras. Please pray for our protection & a great camp. Our son, Leslie Priday, is heading up the camp & our grandsons will be in charge of different areas to make the camp go smoothly. They always do a good job. I will be teaching lessons on the "battle," what the battle is & how to avoid temptation."



**Flo Martin (Guatemala)** "The eighth anniversary of the church in Cantel started on a Saturday night with a big & special service with singing & preaching. Brother Heber & his wife Maura Ochoa (missionaries in Mexico) came. She sang specials during the service & her husband preached. It was a beautiful service. Souls were saved & people re-dedicated their lives to the Lord. On Sunday night, we had another beautiful service with Maura singing with her children. Brother Selvyn Monzon of Bible Baptist Church preached a good sermon. More souls were saved and people dedicated their lives to the Lord. Our attendance went up to 245. The ladies prepared a delicious meal for after the services. We praise God for the wonderful blessings of these anniversary services."



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### Bible Verse

<sup>2</sup>For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <sup>4</sup>Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup>Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. <sup>6</sup>For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, <sup>7</sup>Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth'. **2 Timothy 3:2-7**

