

# Moisés and Lourdes Zapata

June 2010



Dear Prayer-Partner:

May our good Lord continue to lift His face upon you and your dear ones.

**Before I proceed with the news, let me say thanks to you for your faithful support of our ministry through your prayers and your money. We would do much less without you.**

Have you ever read a book called "The First Messiah?" The author, Mr. Michael O. Wise, a student of the Dead Sea Scrolls, wrote a book 277 pages long in order to present the idea that there was a man whose followers called him the Teacher of Righteousness and who was the first Messiah. It is very interesting to me how there are people that would devote such a tremendous effort to proclaim wrongs beliefs.

Just one week ago I had the blessing of conversing with two ladies, Jehovah's Witnesses. The lady leader presented her case for nine minutes, so I had nine minutes to try to show them their short-

comings and present the Gospel of Christ Jesus in a nutshell. I encouraged them to come back in order to have an opportunity to hear more of the Gospel. Politely, they said they would. It will be a surprise if they ever come back to our door! **Please, pray that we might be more courageous and effective presenting the Gospel.**

The violence in Ciudad Juárez, across from El Paso, shows no signs of subsiding. Only the Gospel can heal the sin induced social sickness that pervades Ciudad Juárez and the Border. A couple of years ago, most of the killing were done at night. Now, it seems to be that the "sicarios" (hitmen) are in a hurry, because they kill 24/7. Unfortunately, not only the "bad" are terminated, even innocent bystanders are injured or die. It is sickening to learn that sometimes even babies are hit by the bullets intended for grown people. **Keep praying for the situation of violence along the USA/México Border.**



Many people, even close relatives ask

me why I entice death by going to Ciudad Juárez. My answer is very simple: I am completely convinced that my Lord and Savior, the only true Messiah, has placed a burden



in my heart to prepare leadership for His church. In regard to the charge that we missionaries entice



death — it all depends on the understanding of life and death. I would argue that disobeying God is really to entice death. **Please, pray for our safety, but most of all for our character,** as we endeavor to train the leaders of the Mexican church. Our Lord will hear you and we will be safe!

Our Lord has been good to us these past few months. For example, on April 29th I flew to Villahermosa, Tabasco, on the southern part of the Gulf of México. In spite of the fact of my forced departure from my luggage and my briefcase due to a robbery the very night I flew in, the Working Retreat for Men (May 1-2) that I led was a blessing for me and to the participants. Yes, the hungry mosquitoes feasted on us the two nights that we



spent at a Christian Camp, but the men were asking why it

took so long to have this first working retreat. Carlos Vargas, the Ruling Elder in charge of the Presbyterian Mission Jesús El Pan de Vida (*Jesus, the Bread of Life*) reports that the men are now participating with a new commitment to reach out to the population in their area. Please, **pray that these men will multiply and that their mission might be organized as a particular church in the next two or three years.**

Taking advantage of the proximity to Mérida, Yucatán, I took a night bus that allowed me to visit Mérida for two days in order to have a meeting with the leadership of Puerta del Cielo, a Presbyterian Congregation. The leadership would like to grow but they cannot figure out how. So, they called me. Thanks to our Lord, I had an opportunity to present them our way of serving, emphasizing the three fundamental actions of a church: **worship, discipleship and witnessing**. Two days later I received the good news that Puerta del Cielo had decided to use my services. We are in the process of conversing in order to sign a formal agreement of revitalization and multiplication.

Gracia y Paz, the Presbyterian Congregation I pastor in Ciudad Juárez is a source of happiness to me. First of all, although it has been less than a year since I started to serve them, a true connection has been established among us. The Sunday worship services are consistently well attended now, with just a few chairs to spare. We have arranged the Sunday schedule in order to be able to have two worship services on Sunday when the time comes. Also, punctuality has improved noticeably. I suppose that a clock conspicuously placed at the entrance helps make people aware of the time they are entering the place of worship, without words. At 7:30 AM we start the Teachers Class on Sundays, and we finish it at 9:30 AM. The Sunday school goes from 9:45 AM till 11:35 AM, in order to start the worship service promptly at noon. On Thursday nights we have Leadership from 8 PM till 10 PM more or less, usually more, since the men are so hungry



for good teaching and good fellowship. **Please, pray for Gracia y Paz.**

The San Pablo Seminary, Juárez Campus will have on June 5, at 7 PM, its graduation ceremony. If our good Lord allows it, classes may start again on August 9. **Please, pray for students. It will be wonderful to have ten new students. Also, keep praying for the critical need for three missionary theology teachers** for the San Pablo Seminary. I just finished now the paper with the requirements for the next two courses that I have been assigned to teach. I feel really tired some days, but our Lord always gives me enough stamina to accomplish the task at hand. **Our Lord is good!**

Lourdes' knees are still painful, but she gets some relief every three or four months by some shots. Thanks to our Lord, Lourdes has been able to help Moisés and Keren with Kristofer, just seven months old. As you can see from his photos, it is a reward just to have the opportunity to babysit him.

Mara continues her studies. She will study throughout the summer. Moisés and Keren, Josué, Esther, Israel and April, as well as our grandchildren, Briana, Elijah and Kristofer, are all okay.

Please, remember that "mi casa es su casa," (*my home is your home*). So, you can come and knock on our door at any time. May our Lord grant you a great day.

**Moisés and Lourdes Zapata.**

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