



Crusader Chronicle



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CONCEPCION and BENITA DIAZ (Santa Engracia, NE Mexico)

Vacation Bible School was interrupted this summer by Hurricane Alex. As was mentioned in the Crusader letter this summer, two of the churches lost their roofs because of the strong hurricane winds. Please pray for the families in the area who lost much furniture, clothes & some even their homes. It was great to have fellow **Crusader Missionaries Jacob & Linda Wiebe helping with various projects**. They left their grain of salt in Santa Engracia, and returned tired, but renewed to Durango.

The violence seems to have calmed down in this area (at least for now). A pastor from Monterrey helped lead the many local youth who attended **Youth Camp in Mapaches**



There were also a number of baptisms a few months back.

DAVID and RITA HARTNAGEL (Linares, NL & Honorio Cruz in Hidalgo)

Vacation Bible School started out with only 40 children but by Day#6 there were **130 children**. Mothers stood by the windows as Bible stories were reviewed and verses recited. It was exciting and some are now attending services

because of these Bible School days. Please continue to pray that the Holy Spirit would work in fathers, mothers & children.

Pastor Honorio Cruz was up recently to get parts for his aging pickup so that he may continue to visit and preach in various villages.



MEINARDO and JULIE HERNANDEZ (Zapotec area in Oaxaca)

Good news on the translation center building—the cistern is complete & foundation nearly as well. Additionally, colleagues of ours sold us a houseful of furniture—to be used to further Zapotec Bible translation work. We plan to complete the first story so that it can be used as an office while the second story (living space for Zapotec translators) is under construction. Praise God for his provision and thank you for your part in this through finances and prayer.

Joaquín and Dina from Lovene were with us in Oaxaca for five weeks. Praise God that during their time here, Joaquín received Christ as his Lord and Savior. They and Meinardo worked together to **translate the first five chapters of Luke** and produce several basic reading books that serve to introduce the people of Lovene to their language in written form. Joaquín and Dina both enjoyed the work, but the pull back to their village (tending to crops, running a small store, caring for relatives, etc.) is strong. Please pray for them that they will choose to come and work with us regularly.

BIBIANA MENDOZA

(Mexico City and Indigenous areas)

Bibiana recently came from the Oaxaca coast where she worked with the translation team.



Bibiana also went this last weekend to the Baptist mission convention in Monterrey to encourage and be encouraged. Bibiana requests prayer for her parents who have not been well and others in her house church in Mexico City.

WIEBE NEWS

(Jacob, Linda, Cara, Felipe- Durango, W Mexico)

We were thrilled to report that a local kidnapping ring has recently been captured. The sting operation that finally bagged them included army helicopters and official vehicles from quite a few sectors. It took the snatching of the ex-mayor's son to get some positive action.

The cartel situation continues with **heads severed from bodies, and daily reports of shootouts** with multiple casualties. The latest menace appears to be highway robbery and murder—although the cartels insist they are only targeting their competitors—people driving late model vehicles seem to be particularly susceptible. “Cloned” vehicles are the rage at the moment. It is **virtually impossible to identify whether the ‘official’ vehicle pulling you over is authentic** or a cartel clone. Frankly, as they are usually armed to the teeth, it wouldn't make any difference if you could distinguish them. The spiritual climate within the believing congregations is at an all-time low. Many

families have fled the country. The general consensus is that a Columbian re-run is on the cards. In our case, a sage piece of advice—found in “When People Are Big and God is Small” by Edward T. Welch-has proven to be an encouragement. ‘A healthy God-fear will wipe out fear of anything or anyone else!’ (Prov. 1:7)

**UNTI (National Translators Association)
A Partner Organization**

SIL & Wycliffe have facilitated training for UNTI in fund-raising and Project development. UNTI leadership and translators looks forward to their national meeting October 28-30 where decisions will be made on how best to work in the next few years. If you would like

*to be a part in helping **sponsor a national translator** and receiving updates please let us know. Partial sponsorships can start with any regular amount. Be a part of getting God's Word into heart languages.*



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