



MPI UPDATE

Keeping you informed. MissionProjects.Inc

September-October 2005

Website:

www.tagnet.org/mpi

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Mel & June Anderson

Bozeman, MT
406-587-2969

NEWSLETTER

Beverly Christensen

Castle Valley, UT
435-259-5683
redrockbev@yahoo.com

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Huichol Adventists Cast Out of Their Homeland!

For the love of Jesus Christ, Huichol Adventists fled the Sierra Huichol during August. They are now living as religious refugees in Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico. They were graciously given shelter by The Apostolic Church in Tepic, but 46 have been moved to a rancho owned by an Adventist Mexican brother in that area.



Huichol Adventist brothers and sisters, all Adventist converts, are from the one village of Aguas Frias. Their little adobe church was the first Huichol Indian SDA church built.

Since they have become Adventist Christians and made the decision to no longer attend traditional festivals where the Huichol gods are worshiped, the Huichol leaders of their particular region held a meeting and made the decision that the Huichol Adventists of the region of Ocata de la Sierra are no longer considered Huichol Indians!

Death threats have been made against them for becoming Christians. (The death threats are taken very seriously. Last year the kitchen of one SDA woman was set on fire and she was burned over much of her body while trying to save her possessions.)

The Huichol Adventist Christians of Aguas Frias are a part of a larger governing area of Ocata de la Sierra, and it is the elders of this area who have made the decision that the Adventists must leave the mountains. This means

MPI Board & Personnel

PRESIDENT

Gary & Karen Andregg
Hope, ID
208-264-5487
800-905-5674
gkandregg@yahoo.com

VICE PRESIDENTS

Melvin & Gladys Johnson
Hamilton, MT
406-363-3080
gladmelmel@juno.com

Ed & Ruth Mackenzie
Yakima, WA
509-965-0385
edmackenzie43@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Jerry & Wendy Harris
Castle Valley, UT
435-259-5987
missionprojects@frontiernet.net

COMMUNICATIONS

Fred & Diana Adams
Placerville, CA
530-642-9441
fdadams@directcon.net

HUICHOL PROJECT

Karen Kotoske
Palo Alto, CA
650-328-1737
amistadf@aol.com
Dagoberto Cirilo
Guadalajara, Mexico
amistadgdl@hotmail.com

MPI MEMBERS:

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

Refugees

Continued from p. 1

they no longer have a place to live nor land to grow corn where their families have grown corn for centuries. All of these Huichol are farmers and most are illiterate. They have no other way of making a living except to work as peasants picking tobacco, chilies and tomatoes on coastal Mexican farms.

Mission pilot/pastor Dagoberto Cirilo petitioned the Mexican human rights commission lawyers asking them to intervene as a human rights issue. They met with Huichol authorities and issued a judgment saying the Huichol local authorities have the legal right to ask the Christians to leave their homelands.

The 46 religious refugees are living on the property of an Adventist family in the vicinity of Tepic, Nayarit, Mexico. Mission pilot Dagoberto is purchasing their food, and donations for this purpose are gratefully accepted.

We are grateful to God that so far this is an isolated situation. Other Huichol SDA from other regions have not been asked to leave their villages. In fact, we are still having Huichol ask for baptism, praise God!

Some have asked me, "Why can't the Huichol who have been dispossessed move to other Huichol areas to live and grow corn?"

The answer is that Huichol from

one region cannot move to another area and share land with another group because Huichol from one region won't accept Huichol from another region unless the person arrives as a result of a marriage between families. Also, there isn't enough tillable land to support the entire tribe in one location.



For those who have traveled with us to the Huichol Sierra and remember the high vertical peaks, deep canyons and almost no flat space with soil, it is easy to understand why corn growing areas are scarce and valued.

LIVING IN UTTER POVERTY AND FAITH

Dagoberto Cirilo has two requests for friends of MPI: First, prayer for the courage of these families and that somehow God will open a new life for them, one which provides them simple housing and a way to grow food. (I might add, please pray for Dagoberto. He now has total responsibility for the families. Pray that he is given wisdom to help them find a new life.) And secondly, he is asking for help to provide the families' daily food. The cost is \$40 per day to feed the 46 refugees.

They had been living in extreme poverty yet with extreme faith. Dagoberto says that they had almost nothing before the exile except some land for growing corn. He has faith that God will give them a better life than they had before.

We will not and cannot abandon our brothers and sisters in Christ. They have made a very courageous decision to follow Christ and are suffering enormous loss as a result. Yet the greater reward we know is their eternal salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Karen Kotoske

Worthy Student Aid

Success after a Long Struggle

Dear MPI Donors,

I want to share my joy with you, because in spite of many barriers and difficulties, and with God's help, I have graduated! On June 4, I received my four-year Nursing degree.

Two years ago, things seemed impossible. My father left the home, and my sisters were unable to provide sufficient financial assistance. I sold books and worked in hospitals during vacations, but that wasn't enough. I felt so joyful when MPI helped me finish my second year of Nursing, and resolved to keep studying.

Only one week before graduation, I felt very sad, because I didn't have the money to pay my bill, and I would be unable to march. By a miracle of God, only one day before graduation weekend, the funds came through! And by God's grace, I graduated with honors.



Hélder Mendoza

My name is Helder Mendoza, I was born in San Pedro Yaneri Ixtlán, Oaxaca; Mexico. I left my Town to finish my elementary school. I was also outside home during my high school studies.

When I was 16 years old I converted to the SDA Church. Then, I continued my studies in Linda Vista Academy in the school of Theology. I am a self support student so most of my studies have been financed colporting.



Roxana & other nursing students on MPI Mission trips in Chiapas, Mexico

I thank MPI for helping make it possible to reach this goal in my life. It was also a pleasure to be a part of the Medical Brigades on two MPI Mission Trips to Chiapas in 2003 and 2004.

Presently I am working at the Adventist hospital in Villahermosa, Tabasco. I still need to do a year of Social Service, as required by the government. I can't find words to express my gratefulness to God and to MPI friends who made it possible for me to serve others. *God Bless You!*

Roxana Ocaña

However, last summer I could not get enough money to cover my expenses. That is the reason why I am requesting for financial support. I really would appreciate any help that I can receive from you.

Sincerely,

Hélder Mendoza

Editor's note: *The above messages are printed as received from the students, who are learning English. Donations should be designated for the general Worthy Student Aid fund so we can help as many as possible. Thanks!*

African Lay Worker



*By a Bible Worker in Zambia
Issue 6 Jan-Mar 2005 Riverview*

After the child evangelism seminar at Riverside, the first evangelistic meeting which I had was a combination of preaching to older people and teaching children using felts. At first the number of children attending was poor. parents were refusing that their children to come because the meetings were being held at night. when this complaint came, I changed the time from 18:30-19:00 back to 16:00-17:00.

The change of time brought good results, the number of children attending the meetings went up and some of the old men and women who were not able to attend during the night were happy and they started attending during the day with the children.

One day I presented the resurrection using the felts. I explained how people will meet their beloved ones who died long time ago and how happy it will be. Fathers and mothers will meet their children. As I was trying to explain this topic in detail, I saw two children in the group weeping. One was four and the other six years old. I tried to stop them but they just continued weeping. At the end of the meetings I asked those with questions and also the two weeping children to remain behind that I may pray with them.

These children told me that father died when they were still very young . Their mother who was looking after them died about nine months ago. And so they were now being looked after by their old grandmother who was a smoker and a drunkard. They asked, “Is it possible for us also to meet our mother during the resurrection day?”

I assured them that if they only believed in Jesus it is very possible. I told them to go and tell this good news to their grand-

mother. The following day they came with their grandmother, we had some nice Bible studies and she surrendered her life to Jesus with her two grandchildren. She was one among those who were baptized during the crusade.

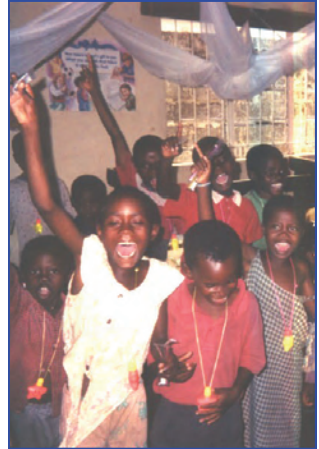
On another occasion I presented the topic of how people were going to worship in Jerusalem on the Sabbath and how people will be going to worship God in the new Jerusalem on the Sabbath. I arranged the felts so that the old and new Jerusalem could easily be seen. After explaining this topic through the Bible one of the children asked a question: “What about Sunday?” I said that it is not written anywhere in the Word of God, the Bible.

I told them to go and ask their parents for the references. The following day, they came and told me that their parents had no references. They had told their parents that they need to start worshipping on the Sabbath so that they should be among those that will be worshipping God in the New Jerusalem.

These children invited me to go and have Bible studies with their parents. I went there and on the third day of our studies the father and the mother accepted Jesus. During the baptism they were in the front of the line by the river.

Riverside Farm Institute has done wonders in Zambia. Places which were not going to receive the advent message, can now receive the light. May the Almighty Father, the owner of these souls, bless the director and the leadership.

There are eight bible workers in Zambia who are sponsored by MPI. They thank you for making it possible to reach souls with the gospel and the message of salvation for eternity through your donations for African lay workers.





Community Clown Discovers Genuine Joy in Jesus

By Esther Martínez

In the community of Chinantequilla, a Branch Sabbath School has been organized by layman Cenobio Reyes. He recently sent a report in which he tells of Jorge the Clown. We thought you'd be encouraged by his story.

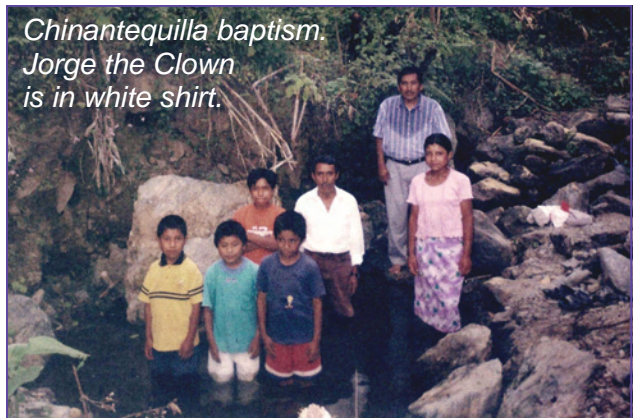
Jorge was an important man in the community because of his abilities to make the people laugh. Two times a year, this town observes traditional Catholic holy days with a big town-wide festival. Jorge and his assistants provided all the fun during these holidays with organized dances and lots of magic tricks. But even though he had a big smile painted on his face, down in the bottom of the clown's heart, he was troubled and sad because he had no peace. During the parties, alcohol flowed freely, and Jorge was addicted to these drinks. In fact, even after the festivals ended, he would drink and drink for up to two weeks, until he was so sick he couldn't drink anymore.

Brother Reyes visited with Jorge on several occasions, sharing with him the hope we find in the Word of God. But Mr. Clown had lots of excuses for not attending the Branch Sabbath School. "I'm addicted to alcohol. I can't accept Jesus." "What would the people say? They love me and appreciate me because I'm the clown."

Esther Martínez is a schoolteacher who enjoys the challenge of deciphering the scribbled reports of our humble laymen and turning them into readable stories on Sabbath afternoons.

He concluded that it was simply impossible to come to Jesus. But the layman kept praying for Jorge—and visiting him whenever he got the chance. Finally Jorge agreed to come to church—just for a trial visit. “But don’t think I’m going to stay with you,” he warned! Brother Reyes was encouraged, because he knew that the first Sabbath visit was a step in the right direction.

Jorge the clown didn’t come to church the next Sabbath, but not too long after that, he approached Mr. Reyes and stated, “I’ll study with you now. I don’t care any more about what the people say. I know God will help me overcome my addiction.” Jorge started Bible studies, and he quit drinking. Attendance at the December festival was down significantly because there was no clown at the party. And on April 21 of this year, after thorough study with Cenobio Reyes, Jorge the Clown was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at Chinantequilla. Now he has a genuine smile on his face *and* peace in his heart, joyfully living to bring honor and glory to God.



La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital

Capital Improvements

By Ed MacKenzie



La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital, (“LLL”) has been making a lot of capital improvements over the last several months which has brought a lot of excitement to the campus. For years the LLL Hospital Board has wanted to complete the new hospital wing which was started around the year 2000. Part of the new wing has been used as offices by the hospital’s physicians. The balance of the lower level will be used for the new imaging center. The second level will have two large rooms. The first will be divided into four classrooms with the second room being a conference room.

To date LLL is in possession of high quality used imaging equipment that includes a mobile, (in a trailer) CT Scan, and a new X-ray Machine among other things. Both of these pieces of equipment are very valuable. We are very grateful for the generosity of those who have given this equipment to the hospital.

Though the new roof is on, we still have a lot of work to do. This includes installing doors and windows as well as finishing of the interior. The estimated cost of completing the wing is

\$70,000. Received to date is \$58,000, leaving a balance needed of \$12,000. One-half of the construction budget is for the electrical system. LLL will be adding three-phase electricity, which will connect into the hospital's present electrical system. This will make the old system compatible with the new system.

While we have some of the funds available, a large amount is still needed to continue with this project. In a couple of weeks individuals will be coming from Kettering Hospital for the various projects. They will coordinate the installation of the new equipment. We are moving ahead with the electrical so that the new electrical system can be lined out and hopefully put into place while they are here.

LLL would also like to start a Life-Style Center. In order to do this the hospital is in the process of renovating one of its rental properties for this purpose. Estimated cost is \$10,000. Received to date is \$4,000, leaving a balance needed of \$6,000.

A new storage building will be completed as work teams are available. This will free up space in the hospital for a very-much needed chapel. Estimated cost of the new chapel is \$5,000 US. Received to date is zero, leaving a balance needed of \$5,000.

LLL is also exploring the possibility of digging a couple of wells to reduce their dependence on commercial water. Estimated cost is \$12,000. They will be doing some preliminary work on this project, but the actual work will not be started until the other projects can be completed and funds are available.

LLL staff appreciates your support in prayers and welcomes your financial gifts towards LLL Adventist Hospital's projects. They will continue to move ahead as funds are made available and will keep you updated as progress is made.





Left: The entrance of the hospital, with shop roofing strewn on walkway.

Right page upper: The Shop minus roof.

Right page middle: Side of the three apartments building.

Right page lower: part of the Campus looking towards the Administrator's home.

La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital

Protected In The Eye Of The storm

By Ed MacKenzie

On the afternoon of May 26, La Loma Luz Adventist Hospital was hit with an unexpected tornado. The roof covering the front half of the apartment building ripped away wrapping pieces of debris around trees, over fences and elsewhere. The storm also tore off most of the shop roof sending it careening over and damaging the hospital's roof on the way. Several workers, including myself, thought that the roof was flying off of the hospital. The cost for making the roof repairs was about \$5,000 BZ/ \$2,500 US.

The storm lasted about an hour. During that time it caused a lot of damage and a lot of clean up. Trees were uprooted, blown over or severely battered. After the storm the sun shone bright as if to say everything was going to be okay. While we had some water damage, there was little or no rain during the night, which was a real blessing.

The open food market in the nearby town of San Ignacio was leveled. Other than that there was little damage in San Ignacio Town. This was not the case in Santa Elena Town, however. A number of roofs were completely swept away or severely damaged. One very large Mango tree was severed near it's base

and was left leaning against a home. It is still sitting in that same position today, even though some of the limbs have been removed.

Collet Montejo, the hospital chaplain, says that he had never seen such a storm during his 35 five years in Belize.



We were thankful that Pro-Belize was here working on the campus during the time of the storm. We are especially grateful for their clean up efforts on the following day, straightening out roofing materials and sorting and stacking them. They dragged tree limbs

and brush into piles for clean up as well.

In spite of the storm, the really good news is, no one was injured, as far as we know. There was no loss of life. The hospital did not have a single patient who was injured as a result of the storm. This was truly amazing. We are reminded of God's care even in time of disaster.



Sometimes God allows storms to come our way to wake us up; He wants to get our attention. Are we listening?

Memorials

Barrow, Joe

*By John & Shirley Barrow
Mr. William Lee*

Graves, Robert

By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke

Beams, Carolyn

By Dr. & Mrs. Cliff Vixie

Harris, Gordon H.

By Nan T. Harris

Bergen, Sigfrid

By Joan E. Poole

Mundall, Dr. Ray

By David C. Bechtel

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

Worthy Student

Your contributions to the Worthy Student Fund are making a big difference. Since we are unable to feature each of the dozens of students needing aid, MPI prefers that donors give to the Student Aid fund rather than to a specific student, in order to assist as many as possible. Thanks!

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Please send me additional memorial forms

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.).

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.

Go Ye Into All the World

Please return this card with your tax-deductible donation to:
M.P.I. ● P.O. Box 1950 ● Bozeman, MT 59771

Indicate amount donated to each fund

\$ _____	La Loma Luz Hospital (Belize)	_____	Lay Workers in Africa
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_____	San Lorenzo Needs	_____	Church Roofs
_____	Worthy Student Fund	_____	Use where most needed
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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!



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