

January 2007

Partner in Mission;

As we told you in our last letter, at the beginning of the year Rick stepped down as one of the pastors of the Church, and Tim and Chris began serving as co-pastors. The change has gone well. We have had more than a few meetings to plan new strategies and ministries. Both men have taken on additional responsibilities and have begun cultivating other people in the church to assume more leadership responsibilities. Rick continues to meet with Tim and Chris on a weekly basis, but more as an advisor than a co-leader.

On February 10 we are having our annual Friendship Banquet. However, this year we put a different twist on it. Instead of offering a full course meal with live entertainment, we are setting up our regular meeting place to resemble a coffee shop. In an informal atmosphere, we are offering a Coffee Bar, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert. We have several games planned and a short message on friendship. We expect around 60 people for this two hour event on Saturday evening.

After Christmas holidays, God has brought new visitors to the Church. On the last Sunday of January we had an attendance of 50 people for a "normal" service.

After putting the word out late last year that our house was for sale, we waited to see if there would be any response. By mid-January, no one had expressed more than a passing interest in our house, so we decided to list our house with a local realtor. To date, he has shown the house several times and we have received one offer that we could not accept. We are still very confident that they Lord will sell our house before we leave Puebla in mid-March.

Part of our packing process we included a garage sale along with another missionary family who is leaving this summer on February 2 and 3. Garage sales are a bit of a novelty here, plus the fact that North Americans were selling things resulted in quite a few people stopping by. We are pleased with the amount that we were able to sell and with the fact that people were able to buy things that they could use at garage sale prices.

We are in the midst of sorting our stuff between what we were going to sale, things we are shipping up in the trailer, and things we will keep with us until we leave on our final trip out. On Feb 16 we are taking a trailer to McAllen, Texas with the rest of my library, the furniture and other household items that we want to keep. We will meet my stepfather and brother and transfer our items to the trailer they are bring with them. On Sunday, February 18, they will return to Little Rock and we will return to Puebla.

Following our border trip we will be making final preparations for our last responsibility before leaving. On March 2 a team of 28 Cedarville students and two sponsors (Jeremy and Julie) will arrive for Puebla Christian School's Spiritual Emphasis Week (SEW). This annual event is a camp for mostly MKs and other expatriate students. Over 200 kids attend SEW where they enjoy typical camp activities and are challenged to deepen their spiritual life. In previous years, we served as hosts, coordinators and general "go-fors." This year in addition to those responsibilities, we will have the joy of being "official babysitters" for our granddaughter, Mackenzie.

Our daughter, Deb, is student leader for the team this year. As you can imagine, the students have to raise funds to make the trip. And, each year, this is a challenge. At this writing, Deb is \$700 short of her needed amount. First we would ask that you pray that God would supply these funds. Secondly, if you could help with a gift of any size, please send it to the following address:

MIS Office
Cedarville University
251 N. Main Street
Cedarville, OH 45314

Please enclose a note or mark your check for the account of Deb Hudson-Mexico Team.

After the Cedarville team leaves, Carol and I will pack the last few things into our truck and will start driving up to the U.S. We expect those last few days to be pretty emotional as we say good-bye to our church family, friends, and the place we have called home for 23 years. We plan to take our time and allow ourselves to have closure. We will spend a few days in Little Rock, then on to Indianapolis to drop off our trailer full of things before going on to Lima.

During the spring and summer, Carol and I plan to visit as many **Partners in Mission** as possible. Our goal is to give a personal report of the Church here and share our excitement for our role as VP of Personnel Services. We will use our past experience to help prepare and train new missionaries. We will help EBM missionaries be more effective in their respective ministries. This position will entail the care and encouragement of EBM on-field missionaries around the world. We will seek to strengthen the relationship between EBM and the sending churches. While we will be located at the Home Office, we do expect that a good portion of our work will be on the various fields that EBM currently operates in.

Rick starts in the Home Office in Indianapolis right after EBM's Family Enrichment Conference, held this year at the Harbor Shore Church of Noblesville, IN, July 30-August 2.

In Christ—Rick & Carol Hudson

Praises:

1. The change of leadership at Church is going well.
2. The increase in attendance recently at Church.
3. Our garage sale went well and packing is coming along.

Requests:

1. Friendship Evening on February 10.
2. The sale of our house in Puebla.
3. Safe travel to the McAllen, TX and back to Puebla, Feb. 16-18.
4. Cedarville team's ministry at SEW camp.
5. Deb's financial need for the trip.
6. Final details of our move.

Rick and Carol Hudson