

September 2007

GREETINGS FROM JUAN AND PAT GUERRA
IN TEPATITLAN JALISCO, MEXICO

God has done wonders here in Tepatitlan (Tepa). Our group here has grown and continues to grow. We had 23 adults at services two Saturdays ago. Last Saturday we had four people who were baptized and we had 21 people show up for that ceremony. We all gathered at the Green River (Rio Verde) near Yahualica which is a town about 30 minutes from Tepa.

We also had a visitor. A doctor (Florintino), with whom I am studying the bible, joined us for the ceremony. He had never seen a true Christian baptism and decided that he wanted to see what it was like. We pray to God that some day he will be the one in the water offering his life to Christ in baptism.

We drove to the river and when we arrived we had lunch. Everyone brought food for their families and a little extra for someone else. We continued after eating with services. Manuel, one of the members is now directing the music. He started doing that last Saturday. That is great because it just takes one more worry off of me. Plus he is a better musician than I, which helps tremendously. We then continued with the baptisms. After we baptized all four of our brothers, actually three brothers and one sister, we continued with the Lord's Supper and a short sermon. And that was the end of the day. We finished by seven that evening. It was a long day. I was wet because I did not take along a change of clothes, so after I baptized everyone I had to remain in my wet pants and tennis shoes. I was glad to get home and change clothes that evening.

The group is also growing spiritually. Our group is learning what their spiritual gifts are. We are going through the Bill Hybles spiritual gift test. They are all excited to find out what they can do to help in the church when we become a church. There are some who are gifted in evangelism and they are working to bring more people into the group. And they are doing a great job as we can see. In just five weeks we have already grown to more than twenty adults and we are averaging 12-15 children. Pat is having a great time preparing and presenting the lesson for the children every Saturday here in Tepa and in Santa Maria where we are averaging 6 to 8 children every Sunday morning and every Wednesday evening.

God has really blessed us with both groups and we are working hard to accomplish what He has prepared for us to do. We hold services in Tapa on Saturday evening from 6 to 9. Then we go to Santa Maria del Valle on Sunday morning (a 45 minute drive) and I preach there and Pat teaches the children. Then on Wednesday evenings we go back to Santa Maria del Valle and I lead a bible study for the adults (we average about 6 adults each week) and Pat once again teaches the children. Finally we have a bible study on Thursday evenings in Tapa for the church members.

We cannot tell you how blessed we feel to have the opportunity to work with both of these groups. God has given us a couple of flocks to shepherd and these sheep are full of love and full of hope. Thanks be to God!