

# Mexico - July 2007

Dear friends and family,

When the challenge is given in such a gentle way *"you wouldn't want to come help, would you?"* – my heart responded immediately. MTW missionary, Marty Baas, was telling me about the need to computerize the growing library in the Christian school where she heads up the English department. The school, Colegio Renuevo, is located in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico – about 4 hours south of Monterrey.



We went to serve Marty Baas – on left in the above photo, with the help of Allison Preg, Janet and Sara Fortenberry, me and my sister, Charlene (pictured below with Priscila).



Thankfully prior to our arrival, Susan Sundeen of the Monterrey team handled the installation of the software and a summer intern and Stanford whiz, Allen Jameson, wrote a

program to share the information between the three computers using the software. Despite obstacles that came in various shapes and sizes (one day we couldn't even log-on to the main computer correctly, another day we had to learn how to copy the data, at the end we struggled with printing labels... and we never did figure out how to print correct barcode labels despite great attention given by my sister to the instructions provided in the manual).



Still, the Lord met all our needs and most of our expectations, and we all truly rejoiced to see the job completed!!

Thanks to your prayers, the strength of the Lord and the tireless efforts of our team:

- 440 books are in the database
- all books have new spine labels and are shelved in order
- all labeled books have a matching card to track them when a student borrows them
- countless books were repaired and given new plastic covers
- all data is shared successfully between the 3 computers
- Priscila will be able to continue the job with both new and remaining books

If you want to see a great detailed letter with additional photos from my niece, Allison – go to <http://www.mtwla.org/people/fhelmly-pl/07jul.pdf>

Once my 'library team' was on their way back to Atlanta, I enjoyed a visit with MTW missionary Carol Oban. She is doing an amazing job organizing and running more than 30 short-term teams this summer for the church planting team in Northern Mexico! Great work, Carol!

I took one day off in Monterrey and visited a local waterfall with a Mexican friend, Yocelyn. She later took me to a party with her single friends. The picture is not the best (sorry) but besides me in the photo, one woman is married and eight are single. It is a big struggle for these godly women who seek God's will and are praying for the Lord's provision of a husband. It is difficult to be over age 30 and single, and especially so in Mexico. Please pray for them, and single men and women you know... to wait on the Lord and for His will both for today and the future.



My last portion of this journey to Mexico took me to Acapulco. I have a wonderful friend in Maggie Gonzalez, the director of the StreetChild ministry there. She is like a sister and even though we were raised in different cultures, I could tell you many ways in which our parents are similar - as if they were cut from the same cloth!!

A short term team from Columbia, SC was working there with the StreetChild ministry, *Sobre el Puente (Over the Bridge)*. It was a privilege to see the American teens serve the Mexican teens, and a true joy to meet the staff – including the newest member, a social worker whose position was funded by a children's missions project video I was asked to narrate last year. The staff provides clean clothing, breakfast, showers, a devotional, music and a daily Scripture memory verse.

The StreetChild ministry is hard. It takes much effort and there are frequent setbacks – individual crises, tragedy, addictions, sinful choices, difficult circumstances, etc.

Please pray the Holy Spirit will transform these young people whose hearts and lives are hardened ... and for the Lord to sustain Maggie, her staff and the two-year MTW family, Jamie and Jennifer Burkemper, and their two children John and Jossi (10 and 8).



I could write a ton more... but I hope you have enjoyed this short journey in pictures. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve MTW and the ministry of the missionaries on the field. Thank you for your prayers and encouraging notes. It was a meaningful time.

I leave you with a verse that spoke to me as I was awakened in Acapulco by a night time torrential thunderstorm and my thoughts turned to prayer for the street kids huddled under bridges: *"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you; ... for I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior..."* (Isaiah 43:2,3).

May God make the knowledge of His saving power and grace real in the hearts of those who do not yet know Him.

Gratefully yours,

*Darlene*

**Darlene Helmly**  
**MTW Mexico Partnership**  
**678-528-3413**