



Mexico Update

Westminster Biblical Missions

SEPTEMBER 2021



Saludos en Jesucristo! Our ministry is located in Central Mexico in the State of Michoacán. Like many places in the country, many of our people have been affected by the COVID19 virus. Initially, it looked as if our people would be largely spared, and only David Custodio and his wife contracted the virus, recovering fully. But then it swept through our area of Michoacán, hitting Misael Custodia's family quite hard. While most of his family have since recovered, Misael's brother Agustín succumbed to the virus, and passed into glory in July.

At the seminary in Mexico City, they have risen to the challenge by



providing on-line classes, since they cannot predict for any given 2-week period whether they will be allowed any face to face instruction. We are thankful for the technology that can give us some alternatives in these troubling times.

We are not certain we will hold our Reformation Day conference this year. Of course COVID is a major concern. My health issue is the other. Please pray that God will work things so that I am able to go for the Conference. The Reformer Philip Melancthon is our subject this year.

CHERAN: The newer church in Cheran, pastored by Andrés Ceja, along with the church in Paracho and the mission churches in Cheranastico and Morelia, form the Presbyterian Church in the P'urepecha Field (IPCP). The name of the church in Cheran is Jesus Es La Respuesta (Jesus Is The Answer). This congregation regularly hosts our well attended Reformation Day Conference each year. Misael

continues to give them study materials, and help them in their understanding of the Reformed faith.

We pray the Lord will continue to work in this new church here in Cheran, as well as

in the new mission work in Arantepacua. We also pray that the social and political situation will remain stable there, and that the work of the Kingdom will not be hindered because of the troubles.

ICHAN: In Ichan, Pastor José Magaña is continuing faithfully. The work in Ichan is still small, and at times it is very discouraging. Pastor José also continues to write Reformed literature in the P'urepecha language, using the



Pastor Andrés Ceja



Pastor José Magaña

laptop computer we provided for him.

Pray for José's wisdom, and his shepherdly compassion to reach out in love to Neftali (leading the work in neighboring Tzopoco), and to people in the surrounding towns.

In **Cheranastico**, we rejoice that the Lord is blessing the small, though faithful, ministry. Pray that these brothers will remain faithful in the



Lord's work there, and that the Lord will bring increasing numbers of his elect to faith in Him, and grow this mission work into a particular church. Pray for wisdom and strength for the brothers there, as they face the challenges of a growing mission work.

In **Paracho**, David Custodio (Misael's cousin) continues faithfully as pastor of the Iglesia Ebenezer Presbyteriana Reformada. In name and in practice, they are unashamedly Presbyterian, and are continuing to work toward a full presbytery. David has been spearheading the leadership classes for elders, deacons, and church leaders. Please pray that these classes will become a regular part

of our ministry among the P'urepecha.

In **San Lorenzo**, Santiago Naránjo (pictured, teaching in Paracho) still labors diligently with his tiny flock, and lends his aid to Salvador Perucho in neighboring **Anga'uan** (near the volcano). Both are difficult towns, very closed to the Gospel, and because of their remoteness they tend to be rather isolated. Please pray that the Lord would soften the hearts of the people in San Lorenzo, and in Anga'uan, which are challenging fields, and that the Lord would bring many of His elect to hear the authentic Gospel in these towns and be converted.

Arantepacua: Many activities have been postponed, due to the Coronavirus. Arantepacua is a small town in the municipality of Nahuatzen. It is located on the other side of the mountain from Paracho and Cheran. The town has a population of about 2,700 people, 99% of whom are native P'urepecha. 16% are illiterate. 87% speak P'ore, and 3% speak only P'ore.

Please pray for the Lord's blessing on these efforts, and that He will powerfully stir the hearts of many of the residents of Arantepacua, with a deep hunger for the Gospel. Pray for wisdom for Adolfo, and the other men of the presbytery, and that the Holy Spirit will accompany the faithful preaching of His Word.

In **Morelia**, the capital city of the state of Michoacán, the mission church is still continuing, pastored

by Eric Villa. One young man there was brought to the Lord through the witness of Eric's family. He was a student at the university there, and considered himself an atheist, until Eric's family loved him into the Kingdom! Please pray that the Lord will bless this small fledgling work, that it may continue to grow into a fully functional particular church. Pray for the Lord to bless Eric with great wisdom in how best to minister there for His glory.



In **Mexico City**, Misael Custodio continues to teach at the seminary, and pastor his church in the city. Please pray for the Lord to grant him wisdom and guidance in these difficult decisions. Misael has always been, and continues to be, our key man among the Tarascans. The Lord has used him powerfully there.

Every blessing,

Bill Higgins

Field Chairman for Mexico

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