

September 20, 2005

Hello from Burgos, Mexico! We are alive and hot. I mean alive and well and thankful to God for all His help. We are adjusting to a new life, culture, home and environment. We are working hard in many areas. From preparing the home we will be living in to conducting church services, we are very busy and still feel, as many in America, that there are not enough hours in the day for all that needs to be done.

We arrived on the 10th with a few friends from Lockhart who so generously offered to help us get settled. The Lujans, Richard Garcia, and Rick Johnson traveled with us for the weekend and helped us with the difficult task of getting our things across the border and cleaning the house we've been allowed to use. We attended the first Sunday morning service at the Encampment. (The services for these two weeks have averaged 45 people, a number which has pleasantly surprised the people here.)

We spent the week getting our house livable, meeting people, and adjusting our plans to be more effective in serving the people here. We painted the living area/kitchen, our bedroom, and the extra bedroom. We installed kitchen cabinets. Matt and a young man named Omar have redone the water lines to be able to have running water in the kitchen for a sink and washing machine. Also, a young man named Betho used a machete to "mow our lawn." Really, it took him a whole day just to do the front of yard which will help tremendously as we are becoming aware of the creatures that lurk in the tiniest of places. As I type this now, we have two men working in the bathroom to replace the toilet and get the shower ready for use. Also, someone else is installing a new window that had been broken completely.

Though we had not originally planned on sending Trinity to school, we decided to try it for a week. They have a Pre Kinder and Kindergarten class that meet together with 45 students and a teacher named Maestra Samantha. The classes meet from 9am-12pm, and they learn very simple things like colors, letters, and sounds. This is already helping Trinity's Spanish and her comfort with the other children. PJ has been going with her and will continue to go and help the teacher daily. Yesterday, she was asked to teach the colors to the children in English which she enjoyed tremendously.

We have had great response to the English classes that will begin in October. Many people have asked us if they or their children could sign up. So far, over 20 people have personally asked us if they could attend. We are looking forward to implementing that and other programs next month.

We are so aware of your support. We are so encouraged knowing people are praying for us and making this mission possible. Each day brings many difficulties, but we are held in God's hands with your thoughts and prayers. Everyone we've met in the Burgos region has welcomed us and made us feel at home. There is such great potential here, endless possibilities to invest our time and efforts into the lives of others.

We will be in Texas the first week or so of October. We have some errands and doctor visits. We also hope to share our opportunities for ministering in Burgos. If your church or organization would like to have more information, please contact Nora at 512-398-2610, and get us on your schedule. We would like to share some pictures and information about the area and offer ideas on how groups or individuals can directly impact the communities here.

God bless you,
Matt, PJ, Trinity, and Baby Burton

**At this time, we are having some direct communication difficulties. We have no phone line yet, and the internet that we have access to isn't functioning properly. We are sorry for any inconvenience.