

November 23, 2005

Friends and Family,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you this thanksgiving season. We are continually thankful for your words of encouragement, prayers and financial support of the work that is being done in the Burgos region. We are sending this newsletter from Texas. We are in town for the holiday and for doctor appointments. It's a girl.



The church we are helping to start, Cristo es la Roca, is growing and going well. We are working hard with other leaders to minister to the needs of the community and to train more leaders. This is a picture of some of the children who attend on Sundays. At the end of each service they give a summary of their lesson and sing a song. When services began in September, the children were led by a lady named Lucita. At times she taught over 20 students alone. There are now 7 other workers being trained to assist in the classes. Each week Lucita prepares taquitos for the children to eat after the service. We were able to provide flour and beans this month to help feed the kids. Lucita lives near the church and prepares the lunches in her modest kitchen pictured on the right.



Our children's program is gaining momentum. We now have seven different locations which service over 125 children. Some of the locations are small ranchos with only 7 kids in the entire community. Other places are larger in population and we have 25 or more in attendance. In some locations we are working with area pastors to help in their existing programs and in other locations the community doesn't have its own church. The programs last an hour and a half and consist of a lesson, activity, games and snacks. We are currently visiting each location twice a month. We are working to train multiple teams that will be able to work in more locations. This helps the local people take ownership of the work and be less dependant on us. Though it is a slow process, the hope is to



have people here ministering and serving in their communities. One of the youth we are training is Nere, pictured here with her sisters Dalia (left) and Eli (right). Nere lives in Las Amarillas and attends our church and programs there. During the week, she travels to other locations to help us teach. She dreams of becoming a school teacher some day. Not all communities have schooling for all ages of children so Nere currently travels 30 minutes by van to attend junior high (secundaria) in Burgos. Next year she will attend high school (prepa) in Rancho Nuevo because the tuition is less. Her family has become dear friends to us and Trinity loves to visit the girls.

We are slowly adjusting to the new culture and way of life. The simplicity of life here makes it easier to focus on the most essential and important things. Our Spanish is improving and we are able to successfully communicate with people on a daily basis. I was invited to speak at two churches in the region this month. I used a translator at both locations; however, at the second church I began speaking and a few minutes later noticed that my translator had taken a seat in the front because I was speaking in Spanish without her assistance. Nevertheless, Trinity continues to correct my Spanish (and English), but I am improving.

One of our long term goals in Mexico is to connect churches in the states with communities in the Burgos region. The relationship would be a community sponsorship program and would allow people on both sides of the border to know and help each other. A church or group in the states might have the resources to help improve the quality of life and education in a poorer community in Mexico. We hope to serve as facilitators to connect the need in Burgos to those willing to help in the U.S. A child like Alberto (right) might need clothing, food, school supplies, transportation or any number of things due to his family's poverty. A sponsoring church could help meet those needs and began a relationship with his community. After years of sponsorship, not only will Alberto see the love and help of his sponsors, but his sponsors will see the impact their willingness has made in his community. The possibilities are endless. We are currently attempting to arrange informational meetings with churches, Sunday school classes, families or groups to share ideas about the program. Please pass our information along to any interested persons. Our email is mattburtonfamily@yahoo.com or contact Nora at our church 512.398.2610.





PJ is leading a group of girls through an activity in a local church in this picture. After this particular program, the pastor was very excited due to the large attendance. Families here are very interested in opportunities for their children, but we are unable to be in all the places we'd like as often as we'd like. There is a need to train church workers and to support existing community programs to increase opportunities for ministry. We are working hard to support local efforts, to provide resources and to assist in training. To do this we must continue to raise monthly financial support for Burgos Missions and continue to develop relationships in the region. These relationships make it possible to locate needs and potential workers / leaders.

Please pray for us in these matters. We have been well received here and we want to make the most of every opportunity we have.

We have been asked about our needs. First, let me say that we are overwhelmed with the support that our families and friends have shown us. When we hand out rice and beans, or give clothes to a family in need, we give it as a gift from you – as an expression of God's love. Currently our needs are :

1. Prayer
2. Monthly financial support for living and ministry expenses
3. Food and clothing for children and families
4. School and craft supplies
5. Spanish language bibles (NVI translation)
6. Sponsors for Community Sponsorship Program

If you have any questions, ideas or need further information please email us or leave a message at 512.398.2610.

All gifts are tax-deductible if made out to First Assembly of God

and mailed to: Burgos Missions
 c/o First Assembly of God
 PO Box 537
 Lockhart, TX 78644

All donations go directly to the mission work in the Burgos region. Because of your support we have distributed hundreds of pounds of rice and beans, toothbrushes and toothpaste, clothing and school supplies in the past 3 months. We have developed great relationships with people and have begun teaching and ministering in the region. We could not be here without you. Your prayers and resources are making a difference in the lives of families here.



We pray for you and ask that God will continue to bless you. You have been such a blessing to us. Thank you.

Matt, PJ and Trinity Burton

