

Higgins' Herald

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Turning Back The Clock

The contrast is always striking, between the harried modern life of Mexico City, and the more relaxed pace of living out in the countryside of Michoacán. It is always very noticeable, when we travel to Tarascanland. We usually travel on an overnight bus, so it is almost like going to sleep in the big city, and waking up in the countryside. For the last several years our schedule has been to begin with the Reformation Day Conference at the *Seminario Teológico Juan Calvino* in Mexico City. Then following the conference to spend the next week out with the Manifestors in Michoacán.



Jose Magaña's wife still cooks on her knees over an open fire outdoors.

While there has been much progress over the years, from the way of life when Max first arrived among the Tarascans, many of the daily tasks are still performed as they have been for hundreds of years.

Cooking still takes place outside over an open fire. Corn meal is still worked by hand, between a stone slab and a small grinding stone. Clothes are still washed by hand, often in the neighborhood creek. Horses and burros are still very commonplace in the streets, as are cows, sheep, & goats. And in most homes and churches the facilities are still the old outhouse.



Wash Day - Misael's sister does laundry by hand on a stone wash-board sink. A few miles away this is being done by hand in the creek!

Yet each year we see a measure of progress. When Bill first came to Michoacán, there was only the outhouse and bathing out of a 5-gallon bucket. Now at Misael's parents' house there is a fully-functional bathroom (albeit outdoors), a most welcome advancement. Each year there is measurable improvement on the church building in Paracho, as the Manifestors exercise stewardship over the Lord's resources.



And each year we see progress in their understanding and application of God's Word. The core issues are the same ones that the Church of Jesus Christ faces anywhere in the world - how practically to be faithful to the Lord in ministering the Word, applying it to the lives of the people, proclaiming the Gospel to those who have not yet heard, shepherding God's people in their grateful loving obedience to His commands.



A very common site on the streets of Michoacán. Not so much in Mexico City.

It is exciting to talk with them about their hopes for planting new churches, more effectively ministering to their children, dealing with issues of discipline and unity, and taking the Gospel to the lost. Each year it is encouraging to see the progress and growth the Lord is giving among the Manifestors of the Glory of God.

Home And Hearth

When Max was forced by ill health to leave the region of Lake Patzcuaro and move to the mountains, he built a house and settled in the town of Cheran. That house is now owned by Misael's Dad,

who always opens his home to us when we are there.



Misael with his parents in front of the church that his dad pastors in Cheran.

Besides being the principal in the local school, he also pastors the local church there in Cheran, where Greg and Bill have been privileged to minister while there. Cheran is a good location from which to minister among the P'urepecha, being somewhat centrally located, and accessible.



Misael's Dad at work in his study. It used to be a manual typewriter, with modified keys to write in Tarascan. Now it is a modern laptop!

Thank you for your prayers for our work among the Tarascans. We would ask that you continue to lift up the ministry of the Manifestors. Pray that the Lord would soften the hearts of many people in these villages, giving them a deep hunger and thirst for His true Gospel. And pray for us as we prepare to minister there this Fall.

The *Higgins' Herald* is published as often as we can get to it. The opinions expressed herein are those of the Editor-in-chief, and/or its Editorial staff, unless we didn't really mean to put it just that way. For any blessing you may receive from this publication, we give all glory to our Lord. For any blame, it lies with me. *sic biscuitus disintegrat, cum grano salis.*
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