

Higgins' Herald

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Paracho

It is encouraging to see the progress from year to year in the Lord's Kingdom work among the *Manifestors of the Glory of God* in the mountain region of Michoacán. While we see progress in several places, the town of Paracho seems to have taken the lead.



The Park Bench in Paracho illustrates the importance of the guitar to the town.

Paracho has a long and proud history as one of the premier guitar-building towns in the world. Expert musicians from around the world come to Paracho to have their guitars, or other instruments, custom-made here. Many of the town's residents are skilled luthiers. Elder Ramón Jaoquin, an early disciple of Dr. Lathrop, still earns his living making cellos.

When we first began our work among the P'urepecha, there was no church in Paracho. We met a few families of believers, who had worked with Max in the past, but there was no church. Elder Ramón worked hard to convince David Custodio (Misael's cousin) to become the pastor of this newly re-organized group. David accepted, and took the work quite seriously.



Eric Villa, Ramón Jaoquin, and David Custodio lead the vibrant Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Paracho

Then they persuaded Eric Villa to join them, as the assistant pastor. Eric had spent a year in Mexico City, studying at the *Seminario Teológico Juan Calvino*, so he had a good basic understanding of Reformed theology.



Even the larger churches can not afford to support a pastor full-time, so all the church leaders earn their living as the Apostle Paul sometimes did: making tents. David is a teacher in a school, Ramón a cello-maker, and Eric runs a pizza-shop.



Assistant Pastor Eric Villa baptizes a convert in the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church in Paracho

It took several years for the church to build a building for their services. When we first came to Paracho there was nothing. Then came the foundation, then walls, then more walls and a roof. Now they worship in a fully-finished building with tile floors, plaster walls, and Sunday-School rooms in a rear courtyard.

The Word of God is being ably and faithfully preached at the church in Paracho, by Pastor David Custodio, and his Assistant Eric Villa. They are baptizing converts, and children of believers. They are ordaining elders and deacons. They are administering the Lord's Supper. They are conducting evangelistic outreach in the community. And they are leading the other churches and missions in the surrounding towns in a growing Reformation movement.

When we first came to the region, we would occasionally bring some of the Tarascan leaders to Mexico City for the Reformation Day Conference there. Now they hold their own Reformation Day Conference in Michoacán, often hosted by the church in Paracho.



Elder Jorge Serrano prepares the table for administering the Lord's Supper in Paracho

They have now also built a training center, the *Augustine of Hippo Study Center*, complete with guest accommodations, where we now stay when we are in Michoacán. It is a very practical and serviceable study center, where they also run an internet café. It is here that we give classes on the Reformation and church leadership, to a group of able and eager students.



A study group in the new Augustine Study Center in Paracho

Web-Site Makeover

If you haven't been to the Westminster Biblical Missions web-site lately, you may enjoy seeing our new look! Check us out at: www.wbminc.org. Posted on the site are some of our Mexico newsletters, and also details of our other fields.



A computer screen shot of our new web-site

We are also working on a new updated DVD about the work among the P'urepecha in Mexico. We hope to have that finished soon. We hope to make these DVD's available to those interested in the work of WBM in Mexico.

Items for Prayer

- Pray for our leaders in Paracho: David Custodio, Eric Villa, and Ramón Jaquin. They have undertaken a great task for the Lord's Kingdom there. Pray that the Lord will grant them great wisdom to understand the Lord's Word, and the needs of the Tarascan people. Pray that they will have large, overflowing shepherds' hearts, filled with a love for God, His Word, and the people of

Paracho. Pray that the Lord will meet the physical needs of the church, as well as the health needs of the people. Several have struggled with health concerns over the past few years.



Mexico is still a place of great need!

- On the home front, continue to pray for Tammy's health, and for Bill's business, that the Lord will meet our needs and enable us to continue our work among the P'urepecha people.



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, as well as that of the seminary. Pray that the Lord would soften the hearts of many people in these villages, and in the city, giving them a deep hunger and thirst for His true Gospel. And pray for us as we continue to minister there.

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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