

# Rev. & Mrs. Larry E. Lilly

## Missionaries to Mexico

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Dear Pastor and Friends,

We rejoice in God's blessings on the churches and Bible College. God has been good. Thank you for your faithful prayer and support. The total average attendance in our churches for the first quarter of 2010 was 3,369 with 844 trusting Christ as Savior and 88 baptized. The middle of February we were in Alamo, Veracruz, to preach a youth meeting in the Bethany Baptist Church where Bro. Guillermo Galvan, one of our graduates, pastors. There were over 150 young people present in the youth meeting Saturday evening and 138 Sunday morning. God blessed with 3 decisions for full-time service, 2 saved and many coming for consecration. The last week of February, I was in a missions conference with the Emanuel Baptist Church in San Cristobal, Chiapas. Bro. Miguel Cruz is pastor of this Church which runs over 250 in attendance. Sunday morning the house was packed with over 350 present. There were \$15,000.00 pesos raised per month for missions, 7 saved, 1 for full-time service and over 100 for consecration. This church has 5 young men and women studying for the ministry in our Bible College. We were able to have fellowship with several of our graduates out of this church that are serving the Lord full-time in the region and other cities of Chiapas. Last month, Sharon and I were with Bro. Enrique Santillan who graduated a few years ago. He pastors the First Baptist Church in Vuelta de las Yeguas, near Tampico. He is doing a good job in this village church with an attendance of 45-50. Since we could not be with them in the evening service, they had the morning service as usual at 10:30, afterwards dinner at the church, and then a 2 pm afternoon service. A couple of weeks ago, I preached at another of our churches in Mante, where Salvador Avalos, one of our graduates pastors. They had an attendance of 95, and God blessed with 14 for consecration.



Sunday night, the middle of March, we were disturbed about 10:10 pm with the sound of heavy caliber gunfire and the tires of some 20 heavy duty vehicles screaming about 20 feet from our house. The drug cartels were fighting it out. Some 50 or more rounds were fired in that one incident. In the course of the fight, 2 houses down from our house, one of the members of the main Church in our city was shot and wounded. He is now recuperating from his wound and will be ok. Since then the city has been under siege with a curfew imposed on it by the drug cartels. You will not see this reported in the newspapers or on the news. There have been a lot of threats and intimidation, resulting in a change of strategy in our churches. Many program their services earlier than usual as it is unsafe to be in the streets late. For two weeks we were without any official protection as all had fled the scene. Each weekend our students work in the different churches in the area. Because of the lack of security, we pick them up at the bus station 3 hours earlier than before. The last 9 days have been relatively quiet. However, the killing and carnage continues in villages and cities nearby. In a city 150 miles north, the drug cartel entered a Church, asking how many members they have and how much offering they receive. The cartel then levied an amount on the church that they have to pay every month for security or the cartel will start to kill or kidnap the members. Please pray for our people, churches and your missionaries. Several have been saved as a result of the crisis. This is not the time to retreat, but to go forward with the Gospel. God's love, God's message and our mission have not changed, although the strategy has. We are more than conquerors through Him that loves us. Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in this world.

Please pray for our Graduation Fellowship week. Pray for the services and security and that people will be saved as a result. Bro. Gary Miller, pastor of the Fundamental Baptist Church of Palmer, Texas, will be our speaker. Eighteen will be graduating and entering full-time service for our Lord.

Thank you again for your faithfulness. May God continue to bless and use you as you labor to reach the lost.

Your missionaries in Christ,

*Larry & Sharon Lilly*  
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