

Living Clay

MINISTRIES

International Gospel Outreach Missionaries
Ricky and Crystal Parker



Greetings in Christ's Name!

I'm writing you, sitting in a fifth-wheel trailer, behind the IGO office in Semmes, Alabama. Last week, Crystal, Kelly and I went to Mexico City to get Kelly's passport renewed at the US embassy. We were surprised by the hospitality and friendliness of the people in Mexico City. People stopped us on the street to ask us if we needed help and took time to give us directions. We didn't have to ask, people volunteered their help. This made us feel the favor of the Lord everywhere we went.

At the embassy we were told it would take two to three weeks for the passport to be ready, so Crystal and I decided that I would fly on to the States while Kelly and Crystal went to Acapulco to wait for the passport, and visit her father and family she hasn't seen in over three years. Her father is 86 years old. Anna stayed back in Chiapas; she is in college and doing very well. This has been the first time for us to leave her behind.

I came to Semmes, Alabama to pick up a 15 passenger van that **Lott Road Christian Church** donated to our ministry. Yesterday, I spent cleaning and getting it ready to drive to Tennessee. Once Crystal and Kelly get to Tennessee to visit our son, grandson, friends and family, we will then all drive back to Chiapas together.

Ministry

Before arriving in Mobile, We just finished a week of ministry clinics in two areas of Chiapas, with two different people groups. First we worked with the **Tojolabal Indians** who live about a four hour drive from our home. The name of the village is **Pozo** or in English "Well" as in "water well." Our Bible students started a mission

in this village and are working hard to reach the people of this village and the surrounding villages, more on this later.

Doctor Jose Luis Collazo from Puerto Rico, and **Doctor Roberto Medina** from



Dr. Roberto praying for people

Connecticut, along with **Crystal** ministered to the sick, along with **Betty** and **Kelly** working the pharmacy. In the evening **Jose Luis** preached and several families responded to the invitation to receive Christ. Praise God. Most were from Pozo but one family was from Candelaria a village 15 minutes from Pozo.

Before I continue, I want to explain a phenomenon that occurs in the Indian culture. In our American culture, we receive Christ individually, but in Indian cultures, **whole families come to Christ**. The fathers decide, and the entire family comes forward to receive Christ as their savior. One family had 12 children. Yes this is real and personal salvation. The whole family made a commitment to Christ. Sometimes whole villages come to Christ.

Anyway, the following week our students visited **Candelaria** and eight families came to Christ, resulting in a new church being planted. Again Praise God. These villages are in the heart of **Zapatista rebel territory**. God's amazing work has begun and we believe God for many villages to come to the Lord.

As I explained in an earlier newsletter several villages had made pacts, or corporate decisions, **not to receive Christ**. These decisions are now being broken and people are deciding to follow Jesus in spite of those "pacts". Double Praise God.

The next village we ministered in is also called **Pozo**, it's about two hours from our home. **Juan Perez** pastors this church with five mission churches in the same area. They are **Tzeltal Indian**, a different

language and people group. In the evening **Dr. Roberto** preached his first sermon ever, many people came forward for prayer. After the service we prayed for a child and mother, her baby was very swollen and we encouraged and helped this lady so she could take her baby to hospital.

Bible School Director

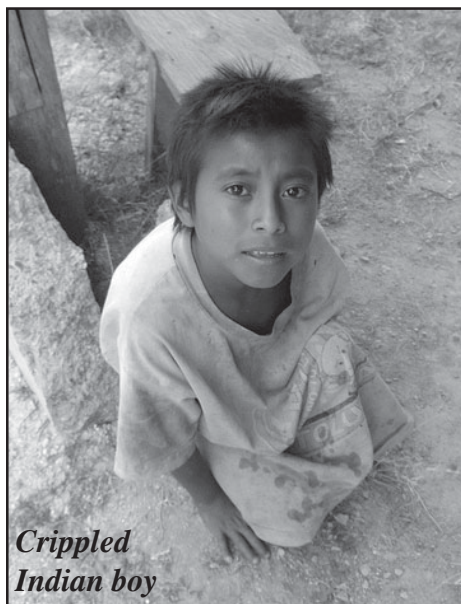
We are directing Bible schools all over the state. Pastors, leaders and our missionary friend **Greg** share the teaching responsibilities. Currently, we have 10 schools operating. I am traveling from one school to the other on a regular basis. Each school is different, and setup according to the needs and availability of the pastors and students. We are seeing good results, doctrinal error is being replaced with truth, while unity and fellowship are growing. Churches are growing and new churches being planted. *The kingdom of God is advancing!*

Summer Teams

In July we have two youth teams coming; one from the United States, and one from Puerto Rico. Plans are still in the works, but I would like to concentrate in two areas of Chiapas; **Tonala** is a coastal area where my friend **Ulysses** pastors **Amistad Christian Church**. The teams will be involved in helping to plant two new churches in this area.

The next area is the highlands, where we live. We will go back to **Pozo** and the **Tojolabal Indian** communities. The teams will work to encourage these new churches and plant additional churches in the surrounding villages.

Isn't this exciting? NOW is a good time for you to fervently pray for our work and our financial support. **Pray that the Lord**



Crippled Indian boy



Tzeltal Indian family

would speak to people about supporting **this important work**. Imagine, God letting us be a part of His amazing love for people. *Can you picture this with me?* Communities that finally have churches, where only a few months ago had no Christian witness at all. Its true, and *you are a special part of it.*

God's kingdom is being established. But wait, *there is much more to do!* People are waiting to hear the old, old story of a new life in Christ. We hope to announce in the coming months new churches are being planted in the center of communities hungry for new life and hope in Christ.

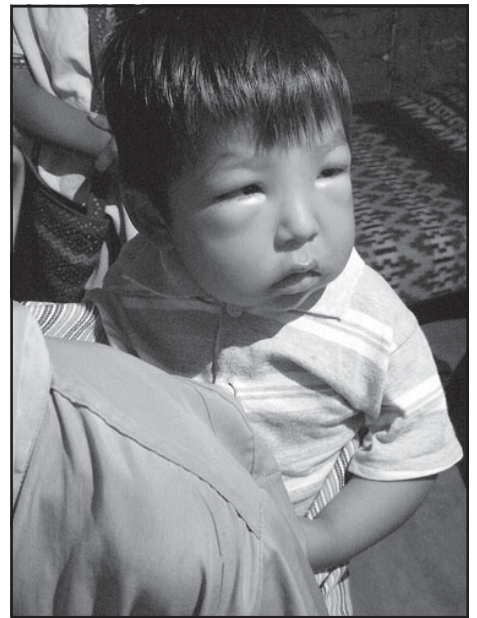
Ricky & Crystal Parker

We would love to hear from you.
You can e-mail us at:
livingclay@live.com

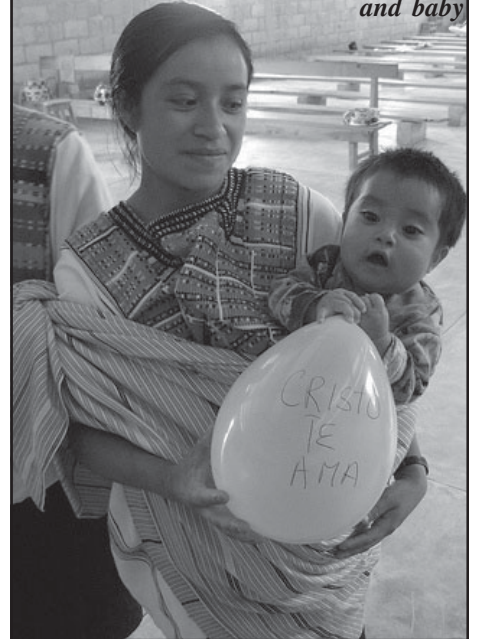
Also, check out our blog at:
www.livingmissions.com

You can also find us on **Facebook**.

*One of the sick children we ministered to
(Right photo)
Clinic waiting room Tojolabal (Below)*



*"Christ loves you!" Cancuc Indian lady
and baby*



*Children being
taught the Word
of God in Pozo*



Kelly and Betty teaching children



Ministry Van

RICKY & CRYSTAL PARKER
MISSIONARIES TO MEXICO

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