



<p><i><b>Mexico Bound by Cultural Tradition</b></i>          April 2004          Part 04, Ch. 16 CRF Media Chronicles</p>	<p><b>Final:</b> 05/18/13  <b>Time:</b> 10:03          © 2013 Carl and Arline Ryan</p>
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**Carl:** We arrived in Puebla, Mexico only four weeks after my return home from India. It was early spring of 2004 and a good time for our two-week visit to this important area of Mexico. It was also a welcome change from the depressing environment in and around Mumbai, India.

Puebla, founded in 1531, was the principal city of colonial Mexico and, ... like all of Mexico, ... reflects the overwhelming Spanish influence. Little remains of the indigenous culture, except the languages in some remote areas.

Located in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains 80 miles east of Mexico City, this is a place of history, of culture and of grand cathedrals. It is a place of the rich and of the poor.

**Arline:** “To be Mexican is to be Catholic” is often said. Indeed, the Catholic Church influences about every major facet of life. Catholic cathedrals are dominate in the cities as well as the smaller towns and villages. Many of these huge structures were built centuries ago. In Puebla, and the nearby city of Cholula, there are about 350 Catholic churches. While the outside of these edivices is impressive, it is the interior that appears as an opulent display of the wealth and power of the church. Also, the image of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the patron saint of Mexico, is the central focus. The Virgin Mary and Jesus are given secondary standing.

Puebla is a progressive city with a variety of retail outlets and manufacturing industries as well as colleges and universities. Students graduating from these colleges are the future of Mexico. However, it is questionable where their value lies. Will it be in their loyalty to the Catholic Church or in developing wealth, power and prestige?

Looking for local treasures for myself and gifts is always fun. One shopping area yielded souvenir items and Talavera pottery. A few days later, touring a Talavera plant was a special treat. While filming a store with some religious artifacts, we bought a small statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe and Don Diego.

Life in the rural areas is much different than the cities. Found here are small houses and dirt roads. This is a different world for these people who have little education and must subsist on meager incomes.

Farming in the mountain foothills is primitive.

**Overlays:**

Juice is extracted

The distillery building  
The condensing tanks

The main crop is sugar cane which is processed illegally to make tepache. (Te-pa che)

One of the indigenous people groups we visited are known as the Mazatecos. Their homeland is about five hours drive south of Puebla and in the highlands of the Sierra Madre Mountains. Their towns and villages are often built on steep mountain slopes. Many of the residential homes are constructed of mud with tin roofs and dirt floors. In some places, only grass and thatch are used.

**Insert:** Pictures of the Mazatecos and their villages

While visiting one town, I purchased some blouses to take home. As we stopped to visit a local pastor, an elderly lady came out with beautiful embroidered cloths to sell. Of course, I brought some home!

**Overlays:**

Inside a Mazateco home  
The kitchen  
The Mazateco stove

Food in Mexico, whether in the large cities or in the rural areas, is always a delight. Surprisingly, the food we enjoyed is not like Taco Bell and it is not Tex-Mex.

**Overlay:** A tortilla press

It is delicious! Where ever we ate, ... in homes of missionaries, national Christian believers or at a restaurant, we enjoyed every mouthful! In fact, the dishes were so tasty and different that we did an entire chapter, “*Oh, Que Rica!*” –“ It is Delicious!”

Special memories are of three very different meals shared with others. At the Flores family home and small restaurant, we filmed the making of quesadillas and tortillas. After filming, we all sat down and ate delicious quesadillas containing mushrooms, Oaxaca cheese and an herb leaf only found here. Everything was fabulous! A few days later, we were invited to the home of Mario, Lourdes and their three children where we were served a delightful meal of stew and hand made tortillas. While we were in the mountains with Thurman and Carolyn, we visited the trout farm of Manuel and Magdalena. There we watched the preparations of our meal – baked trout, chips, tortillas and rice. Peas, that are grown on trees, were being shelled. It was quite an experience and, served on the patio, the food marvellous. All of these were provided with kindness in a welcoming atmosphere.

This trip to the central part of Mexico was much different than visits we made over the years to areas near the Arizona border. The friendliness of the people was noticeably different. We planned to return the following year.

**Carl:** While in Puebla and the surrounding regions, we worked with three different missionary teams. This enabled us to witness significant and effective outreach activities in the cities as well as in the rural areas and among college students. We worshipped in some of the churches, talked with the pastors and some of the congregation. We also attended several small Bible study groups. Most of the churches were small and some were in the homes of the pastor. Thankfully, God's Word is spreading among the people of Mexico.

During our two-week stay, we obtained sufficient material for 10 chapters to be included on the the DVD: *Mexico: Bound by Cultural Tradition*”. The team leaders were very helpful with the script writing and supporting information. Some of the chapters were narrated by the missionaries. Over 1000 copies of the DVD were distributed.

CRF Media Chronicles  
© Filmed March - April, 2004

**Narrators:** Carl, Arline

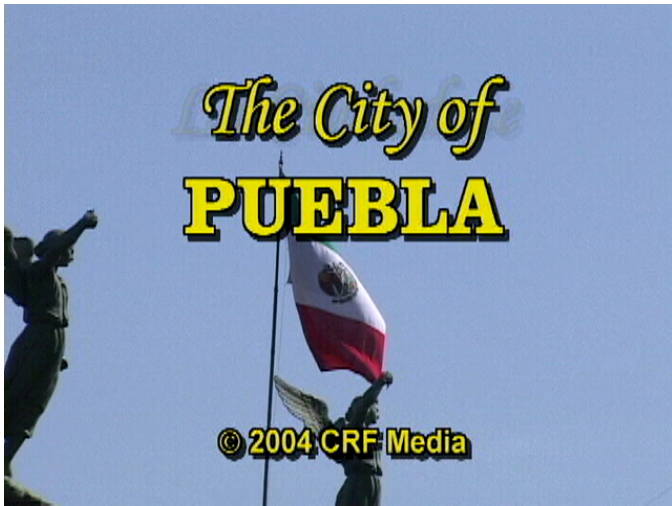
**Background Music:**

*113-05 CRF Media Mexico-1 Intro*

**From:** A very small Mazateco church

## NOTES:

- **FBC Puebla** > Pastor's meeting – **Pastor Jose Bonilla** (also pres of convention – 65 churches)
- **Marisela Barranco**, National (and local) Director Bap. Student Union
- street scenes plus religious artifacts (bought Virgin of Guadalupe and Don Diego)
- **school** where Poore's kids attend in **Cholloyan**
- **Jose Pepe's church** > **Iglesia Bautista Mount Zion** (across street LDS)
- **Chachapa** about 50 min. from Poore's. – **Home of Mario and Lourdes and 3 children**. Small butcher shop front – kitchen behind. Sons (Mario-11) and (Diego-6) Dtr: Lulu-14) - delicious dinner of stew and hand made tortillas. Pastor “E” and wife with us.
- **Hananeel** (God is merciful) in **San Ramon** – **Pastor Eustorg(h)io Perez “Pastor “E” - wife Maria Louisa – home located Sn Bartholomew**
- **Zocalo** – park/town square
- **Bible study home of Elizabeth and Luis**. Served chalupas/pozole soup
- **Miriam** – **video** following from Poore's to bus stop – on bus to her school.... her family: Mom – Angeles (Ahnheles) Gloria-5/Paco-13/Christian-5 – interview of mom's testimony
- 3-28 **Church at Hananeel** – **after church “breakfast” time**. Ch members selling tacos, tamales, fresh squeezed orange juice, etc. to raise \$ to send kids to camp.
- Mkts. Downtown – bought **Talavera**/dolls/onyx
- **mission church of Hananeel at Playas del Sur** (after leadership conference)meeting started at 5 – Pastor E. preaching. Walls of bldg up part has ceiling when meeting held cold!
- big mall - “Angelopolis” (short video footage before told to stop. Ordered food at food court and got some still pics there.
- March 29 – Chas/Pepe/Carl/Arline to the **Flores family home to film making of quesadillas and tortillas**. Stopped and picked up Maria Louisa (Eustugio met us there later). Flores family members. Filmed all steps then sat down and ate delicious quesadillas (mushrooms-herb leaf only found here-Oaxaca cheese) also had gordita (tortilla, sauce, cheese). Tortillas made with beans pressed into them. Also served native drink of chocolate with cinnamon. Family been doing this for 15 years. Wonderful food and very nice family.
- **Maria Colonia** pics of area-- took pics where gov. housing and one possibility for house church and higher class neighborhood also. In the middle/lower middle class area took some pics until greeted by pres of colonia security guard and a couple. Not pleased. Left area.  
Thursday- April 1 – heading to area where Thurman and Carolyn Penick minister.
- San Pedro – cemetery from hill – houses built over grave to house the spirits. – San Pedro – walk in and out until 5 yrs ago.San Jeranimo Ticoatl pickup Tomas.
- Huautla – wha **oot la**
- Friday 4-2 – Htchery – Manuel – Magdalena la Lagunas Ceballos – meanl – chips/baked trout/tortillas/rice
- Hernandez – one of first people saved here in this village.
- 4-3 – San Antonio – up 6:15 packed up breakfast. Left 8 AM – 4300 ft. switchbacks
- checkpoint stopped 10:15 3500 ft.
- town – Trotitlan del Camino
- way up – Big church – Zinacatepec
- pictures – still – all way down
- cactus after Tidelc – oxen plowing
- sugar cane trucks – Coxcatlan (pics sugar refinery cacti mtns background)
- San Jose Miuhuatlan – 17 topes!!
- 11:30 Toll booth – Hwy rest stop ice cream – convoy
- cactus leaves = novales
- Teams: Charles and Terrie Poore and 3 kids/Thurman and Carolyn Penick/Don and \_\_\_\_\_ Kennedy.
- 1) UAP = Puebla State University – 2) Univ. of the Valley of Puebla (old house/private – 3) Mezo American (Universidad) private – 4) Ibero Americano (Catholic Univ.



## *The City of Puebla*

Ch. 17 (9:03) Filmed April 2004

Founded in 1531 by Spanish settlers, Puebla was the principle city of colonial Mexico. The city is located in the foothills of the Sierra Madre Mountains at an elevation of 7,000 feet. In the distance, snow capped mountains occasionally erupt into active volcanoes.

Puebla is a place of history and of culture, of grand cathedrals, and of small churches. ... It is a place of the rich and of the poor, ... a place where large businesses abound along with small shops, and a place with over **100,000** college students.

Cinco de Mayo, ... the fifth of May, ... is a high point in the celebration of Mexico's history. In 1862, the battle raged between the French and the Mexicans in and around the fortress stronghold located on a hill overlooking the city. On the fifth of May, the Mexican soldiers defeated the much larger French army. The well-built fort, with its moats, its high walls, and its gun emplacements remain much as they were a century ago. Nearby the heroes of this battle are enshrined for all to see. Across the street from the fort is the mansion of the governor of the State of Puebla.

Also visible from this hill are several Catholic churches and cathedrals. Many of these are in or near the Plaza Principal also known as the "zocalo." The enormous centerpiece of this plaza is the cathedral built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and is one of largest in all America. It is claimed that angels lifted the huge bells up into the bell tower. Thus, ... Puebla became the city of the angels. Inside, the cathedral has a pipe organ, ... a choir loft, ... 14 chapels, ... many large paintings, ... stained glass windows, ... and several confession booths. The Virgin of Guadalupe and Mary, the mother of Jesus, are prominently featured here as in other cathedrals in Mexico.

The zocalo is the home of much more than the cathedrals. In Mexico, every town has this park with government buildings on one side and a cathedral or church on the other. The zocalo is a gathering place that is very important to the culture. It is the town square where families come especially on Sunday. On Independence Day, everybody comes here for the festivities and fireworks.

Within walking distance are places to buy food, relax, purchase a variety of religious paintings and icons, and obtain the latest DVD even before it is available in the U.S. Several stores feature the beautiful gowns and dresses that are necessary for the special celebration held on a young girl's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday. Close to the hardware store is a place where many types of dried foods are offered including the ever-present hot peppers. For those with a sweet tooth, several shops display an array of delicious candies and cakes.

Talavera tiles are frequently used as a special decorating touch on the outside walls of many businesses and homes. Talavera ceramics and pottery originated in this area and are now world famous. These intricately designed handmade items can be purchased right in the factory where they are made. Occasionally, there is an opportunity to watch the artisan as they apply the designs. These workers spend many years developing the skills necessary to produce works of art.

Sunday is a day to visit the markets in downtown Puebla. Several different markets are available offering all types of Mexican crafts, hand embroidered clothing, fabric, Talavera pottery, onyx sculptures, antiques, paintings, and local China Poblana dolls in native dress. These markets are packed with people looking for that certain item.

For those interested in history, a museum is located in the pock-marked building where the Mexican Revolution began in 1910.

Puebla is an industrialized city with many companies familiar to U.S. markets. Among them is the Volkswagen plant. The Volkswagen is the most common car on the road in this area. Most of these cars, ... old and new, ... were produced in Puebla. The plant opened in 1964 and now has 14,000 employees. The finished cars are often shipped out in huge trucks.

When you see a new Volkswagen in the United States, realize that it was made right here in Puebla. Whenever you see a "New Bug", let that be a reminder to pray for the people of Puebla.

Industries in Puebla are large and small, but all are important to the economy. This marble tile factory provides an opportunity to meet some of those who operate the huge machines. Here the blocks of marble are sawed into slabs, polished and then cut. After cutting to the correct length, the tiles are cleaned with acid to enhance surface features. The packaged tiles will be used for the floors of homes and businesses. This business, like many others, has a shrine to the Virgin of Guadalupe.

On the other end of the manufacturing scale is the making of tortillas. This tortilleria is geared for high volume production. It has 3 employees working to prepare the corn, mix the dough, and feed the machine that cuts out the tortillas and places them on a conveyer belt where they are then packaged and sold. Other tortillerias located in some of the market areas are smaller. However, they still use an electric powered tortilla pressing and cutting machine. In some of the small restaurants, the molding and pressing of the tortillas is entirely hand or foot powered. The output is all the same ... delicious tortillas ... the staple of the Mexican diet.

With a population of almost three million, a wide diversity exists among the people. There is a strong upper class that is very wealthy and is "culturally Catholic". These are the professionals who live in gated compounds that are guarded 24 hours a day. Many work in industry, at universities, and privately owned businesses. The lower class represents over half of the work force. They are usually paid by the day and often are observed selling things on the street. These workers earn about \$10 a day and seldom pay taxes.

Large families are common starting with the expectation that a child will be born during the first year of marriage. Strong emphasis is placed on the family structure with the man as head of the household, however, machismo is still a reality in the culture. Emphasis is placed on the major events of life such as baptism, first communion, marriage and death. Each event has its own set of masses and religious rituals.

There are 365 Catholic churches in Puebla and in the nearby city of Cholula. This area is considered to be the most Catholic in Mexico. The culture here is dominated by Catholic tradition and beliefs, however the Catholic church has lost much of its political power and worship attendance continues to dwindle.

The population of the city of Puebla is made up of 86% Catholic with only 25% of those actually practicing their faith. Evangelicals are about 4% with about 2,000 Mexican Baptists.

**Overlay:**

86% Catholic  
4% Evangelical  
< .1% Baptist

Puebla is a beautiful city, but most people live in spiritual darkness. ... Will you pray for the salvation of the almost 3 million people living in the city? ... Will you join us in sharing the truth that is found in the good news of Jesus Christ?

Jesus said,

*If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.  
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*  
John 8:31-32



## *The Mother of Religions*

Ch. 18 (7:49) Filmed April 2004

To be Mexican is to be Catholic. The Catholic Church influences just about every major facet of life, ... the way the people celebrate births, deaths, marriages, birthdays and other festivals.

It is easy to be Catholic. ... Cathedrals abound from the mountain villages to the large cities. In the city of Puebla and the nearby town of Cholula, as many as 350 Catholic churches and cathedrals are available for worshipers. This area is traditionally considered more Catholic than Rome.

In Mexico, to be Catholic is to worship the Virgin of Guadalupe, ... the patron saint of the country. When the

national Mexican soccer team plays in their green jerseys ribbed in red, embroidered on the right breast of the players is a small emblem. ... The image on the emblem is that of the Virgin of Guadalupe.

The Virgin of Guadalupe was the powerful unifying factor between the Spanish Colonizers and the Aztec indigenous people of the country. As legend goes, Mary ... the mother of Jesus ... appeared on December 12, 1531 to a Mexican Indian named Juan Diego and gave her approval for the indigenous peoples to accept the new religion of Catholicism. As proof of her appearance, she emblazoned her image surrounded by roses on the inside of Juan Diego's cape. He showed the image to the bishop and the Virgin was declared the Patron of Mexico.

The Virgin of Guadalupe has also been crowned the Queen of Mexico, the Celestial Patron of Latin America, and the Empress of the Americas. Most importantly, the Virgin is considered the mother of God.

As the legend grew, so did the power of the Catholic Church and that of the priests. This power and influence is clearly illustrated by the magnificent cathedrals built in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. The size, the ornate gold trim, the huge pipe organ, the icons and the paintings all attest to the apparent desire to demonstrate God's majesty. Meanwhile, the natives who provided much of the gold, ... as well as the labor, continued to live in their grass huts.

In the city of Puebla, two bell towers dominate the skyline. The Puebla Cathedral, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, is one of the largest in all America. During the construction, the workers realized there was no way to lift the bells up into the bell towers. The story is told that one-night angels came down and lifted the bells in place. Thus, Puebla received its official name, ... Puebla de los Angeles, ... Puebla the city of the angels.

It has been written of Puebla that it is a land of God and saints, ... of magic, beliefs and wisdom; ... a mixture of indigenous people and Spaniards. Nowhere can this mixture of beliefs better be seen than at the Church of the Virgin of the Remedios in Cholula. The church, ... built in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, ... sits atop a large mound of dirt that ... when investigated ... reveals one of the largest land mass pyramids in the world. Here, is a mixture of the indigenous with the Spanish. The pyramid was a religious shrine for the ancient Indians. It was not a burial tomb. When the Spanish conquered Cholula, they invited the people to continue to worship in this spot, but they were to worship in the Catholic Church. The religious shrine of the pyramid was replaced by the church ... and ... the indigenous gods were replaced by the saints. But in fact, neither was replaced because under the church ... the pyramid remains... and, ... behind the saints the gods still exist. ... This mixture of ancient beliefs and Christianity is widespread throughout the Catholicism of Mexico.

Many question exactly what the Catholic Church teaches about Mary. A few of the teachings are the perpetual virginity of Mary, the immaculate conception of Mary, and the bodily ascension of Mary. The Church also accepts that Mary is a co-redeemer alongside Christ, she is the mediator between the people and God, she is the dispenser of all grace, she is the queen of heaven, and she is the prototype of the church.

Mary, ... and her manifestation as the Virgin of Guadalupe, ... are the central figures in the faith of the Catholics in Mexico.

**(Charles on-camera comments: In this painting, in the upper right hand corner, we can see God the Father, God the Son, and the Holy Spirit is a dove above them. Then coming down the ladder, we see Mary and then Saint Bernardo who is interceding for the people. The people are reaching to him and in this painting it's suggested that the saints would intercede to Mary and then Mary to the Father and Son so we can see the different levels of intercession in the**

**Catholic Church.) (Charles note ... The on-camera recording has a little too much echo and you will need to renarrate this.)** But it is the Virgin of Guadalupe that is the mother of the religion and of the country.

The Catholic Church claims the unique authority to give out grace to its members. Salvation and favor with God can only be gained through the Roman Catholic Church. Therefore, only in the Catholic Church can one find salvation.

According to the Catholic Church, there are seven sacraments that are needed for salvation:

Baptism

Confirmation

Mass or the holy Eucharist

Penitence

Ordination of the Holy Orders

Anointing of the sick

Marriage

It is a salvation of works.

In the Catholic Church, the Bible and the sacred traditions are equal and the Church has authority over them both. All teaching and interpretation of scripture can only be done by authorized representatives of the Catholic Church. To listen to an unauthorized teacher is a sin.

In the religious practices of the people, there is never a feeling of “grace” as the people continually bargain with God, trying to manipulate Him, or covering many bases through prayers to Mary or other saints, and wearing charms for good luck.

The good news is that the Catholics of Mexico are already familiar with many Biblical teachings. This small symbol displayed in churches and in homes is a depiction of the Trinity. There is little difference in the doctrine of God, of the Holy Spirit, of Christ, of mankind, and of sin. Beginning with the Scriptures, Catholics can come to understand faith by grace through Jesus and only through Jesus. The key to helping Catholics understand the Gospel message is sharing the truth found in God’s Word.

*Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32*



## ***Education: Force for Change***

Ch. 19 (2:59) Filmed April 2004

Mexico has over 2.4 million students seeking degrees in higher education. These students are attending one of the 3,000 universities or technical schools of Mexico ... and the numbers continue to grow.

The dreams and aspirations of these students is fueled by opportunities of good pay and respected social standing.

They have become a driving force in the future of the country.

NAFTA ... the North American Free Trade Agreement has spawned the “free trade generation”. Students seeking a better future for themselves and their country put much of their hope on free trade. This generation of students between the ages of 18 and 29 are the force that is bringing about social, philosophical and economic changes in the country.

Puebla is a university city. There are 15 institutions of higher learning within the city. Some have large sprawling campuses with classrooms, lecture halls, sports arenas and dormitories, while others are small and jammed in among office buildings. ... Some are public schools ... others are private. ... Some teach engineering ... others teach medicine ... but all seek to

mold the student so that he or she will be better able to lead the nation in the future.

Many students, ... realizing the future that is ahead of them, ... look to their education as a religion. The educational institutions have replaced the Catholic Church as the focus of the spiritual life. Church attendance among students is very low. Lower still is the number of those who are considered to be evangelical Christians.

### Overlay ... < 2% are Evangelical Christians

Listen to what some of the students have to say about the relevance of the church in their life. ...

**(On camera comments from a couple of those at the ESL class at the student center.)**

The rejection of strong religious conviction has given rise to problems of morality, heavy drinking, and a wayward lifestyle.

Cults such as Hare Krishna, Mormon, Jehovah Witnesses, etc. are making strong inroads on the campus.

These students are Mexico's future but will that future be the "Free Trade Generation" based on NAFTA or the Christian life based on the Bible?



### *Ready for Change*

Ch. 20 (8:13) Filmed April 2004

University students are an *independent minded, cultural bashing, numerically large* population segment that has even the most established political parties looking for means to include them for present and future elections. This group is increasingly *ready to break with entrenched economic and cultural traditions*.

They shun the public-sector bureaucracy such as jobs with PEMEX and the Federal Electricity Commission, ... instead choosing careers in the private sector. They want *realism instead of nationalistic ideology*. Surveys show they *prize honesty, competence, and pragmatism* as opposed to loyalty, national sovereignty, and lockstep political thinking. Present

leaders say it is going to be a *generation hard to fool*. They are looking for *role models that are different* from the historical ones. They exhibit an *enthusiasm for change* - any change.

As Mexican students search for truth through the systems of higher education, they must be confronted with the real Truth, ... the Gospel. No other truth will change their lives completely. Students deal with scientific and intellectual truths, as well as health, recreation, and personal relationships. Diligently searching to become a complete person, they must be challenged in the spiritual areas of life ... the key element to completion.

There is evidence of a spiritual awakening on the Mexican campuses. More and more are becoming openly involved in cell group Bible studies and unashamedly calling out to God as they never have before. Spontaneously, ... all over the country, ... students, professionals, and even some young pastors are seeking help for reaching out to this generation, ... The Free Trade Generation -- those 18-29 years old.

University campuses are located all the way from Tijuana ... on the U.S. border, ... through the heavily populated central high plains areas, ... to the tourist area of Cancun in the southeast. There are 2.4 million students on these campuses and they all need to know of God's love for them. Thus far, ... there are literally hundreds of university campuses with no organized Christian witness. Our goal for the population segment of Higher Education in Mexico is to make sure we have a Christian witness and presence on each of the 3,000 plus university campuses in the country.

The majority of university students in Mexico are not really clear on what they believe about Jesus. Most think that He was a good man and a great teacher. Some think that He was a very special person. The majority do not think that He is God. That



is why it is imperative to reach students at this time in their lives with the Truth of the Gospel.

Working together with the Mexican Baptist student ministries, we are seeking to train more students and young professionals to reach out to this group. Listen as one of these faithful workers shares about her ministry.

***Intro – Charles ... Let me introduce you to Maricela Barranco. She is the local and national student director here in the country of Mexico. Maricela, can you tell us a little about your work here?***

*INTERVIEW: Maricela Barranco*

**Maricela: Hi Everybody. It is a pleasure to me to talk about the student ministry here in**

**Mexico. We have 22 local ministries here in the whole country. And also here in Puebla we have .. we are working with students of the university between 18 and 29 years old. We have 5 Bible studies in different schools here and also we have a coffee house. We have different methods to reach students here in Puebla. We have a project to invite the students from all Latin America to come here to Mexico to help us in the different local ministries here and also you are invited to come here and help us. We need help in reaching the students here and being associate directors with the local directors here in Mexico and we need your help also. We are inviting you to come here for a month or 2 years to reach students in creative ways also.**

Practical methodology would include ESL. Native English speakers are able to use language as a platform in even the most closed campuses. Another effective platform would be sports teams of all kinds and levels. Music for young people is always well received. Short-term projects with universities where U.S. and Mexican students walk side by side to share the Gospel are very effective. Cell group studies ... in each and every school ... such as medicine, law, engineering, and teaching can be quickly started and have met with great success. Partnerships with Baptist Campus Ministries from the United States are valuable long-term tools. Drama, art, puppet, and mime are useful. In especially difficult campuses, enrollment itself should be considered an option. Almost anything that is creative, new, exciting, and carried out with enthusiasm will open the hearts of young people.

It is a bit unusual but, ... at times, ... Bible studies have actually been held under this bust or statue of Karl Marx who said there is no God and there is no need for religion. It shows how God is bigger than even the great philosopher of the times.

In Mexico, as in other parts of the world, this "cream of the crop" population segment, ... the Free Trade Generation of Mexico, ... is a group that can reach all levels of society with the Gospel, ... from the indigenous peoples to professionals. As they leave the university, they are becoming key leaders in their country ... in businesses, ... in government, and ...in education. They are Mexico's future. Even now, ... as many are being called out to plant churches, ... not only are they reaching up, ... but also out ... to the marginal groups in urban and rural areas. As God speaks, many are willing to give up lucrative professional careers to prepare themselves for ministry at seminary or Bible institutes and live on the cutting edge of missions, whether it is in a megapolis or "to the ends of the earth".

The inscription next to Karl Marx says "Philosophers have interpreted the world in different ways, but the real goal is to transform the world." Yes, Mexico's future, ... its students ... The Free Trade Generation, ... can be part of transforming the Godless world of Karl Marx to a world for Christ.

What will you do to share the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ with The Free Trade Generation of Mexico?



## *It's Delicious*

Ch. 21 (12:32) Filmed April 2004

“Oh, que rica! ... Oh, it is delicious!! The food in Mexico is different than the food in the United States. It tastes different. ... The ingredients are different. ... The preparation is different. ... Eating the tasty dishes is also done in a different way

Join us and see what you have been missing. The food here is not Taco Bell and it is not “Tex-Mex”. This is the real “Mex-Mex” so ... come expecting to enjoy every mouthful. Soup is simmering on the stove at a neighborhood shop. Next-door they are making tortillas that will be sold to those living nearby. Onions, peppers, and beans are ready for toppings on the tortillas.

After a trip to the market, gorditas may be made at home with a tortilla, beans, cheese, onions, and sauce. A tasty meal in themselves, gorditas may also be purchased quickly along the street. At this sidewalk grill, beef, chicken, and pork are cooking for all to see. The vendor is happy to wrap up your choice. Other good foods will tempt your taste buds as you pass. Notice the different soups, potato cakes, and a shrimp sauce Each potato cake is carefully molded by hand. A deep fat fryer is often used in food preparation. Fresh chicken is cut to order should you need to take some home for a meal.

Puebla is famous for molé poblano although molé is enjoyed throughout Mexico. Traditional molé is made up of chocolate, cinnamon, several spices, herbs, almonds and other condiments and then cooked for three days.

Walking in front of a restaurant downtown, it is common to see thin layers of tightly wrapped beef slowly rotating on a vertical spit. This young man shaves off servings to be wrapped in hot corn tortillas, making the real taco for the fortunate patrons eagerly awaiting their meal inside.

Need a fast breakfast? Breakfast stops offer a variety of foods and drinks including fresh orange juice ... squeezed on the spot ... a wonderful treat that only takes a few minutes at small tables set up beside the main roads.

A visit to a local market allows shoppers to find most everything they need. To the Mexicans, cactus leaves, called “nopales”, are very good. Prickly Pear cactus is used as a filler vegetable in main dishes, grilled as a side dish, or cut up with tomatoes and onions as a delicious cold salad. They may also be served as the main dish themselves; ... but first the spines must be shaved off. They can be bought by the leaf or already cut up.

Going further into the market, vegetables and fruit are displayed for customers to select the items they need.. A lower cost alternative for vegetables is to shop at one of the roadside areas where over ripe produce is sold at a savings. It is an interesting experience for an American to watch the various ways that tortillas are made. From a very small operation with hand and foot-operated machinery to electric powered larger machines, tortillas roll off the assembly line by the hundreds. This staple of the Mexican diet is a “must have” part of daily meals. Many are made with flour, but the tortilleras use only corn. Tortillas are readily available at neighborhood stores, the market, or by home delivery. Most everyone buys them fresh daily.

At this stand, Oaxaca cheese, ... a white string cheese originated in Oaxaca ... is sold either grated, in individually wrapped portions, or cut to your order. Notice the stacks of packaged tortillas.

A pig head is ready for purchase as well as other cuts of pork. Big vats are used to render the fat into lard. This butcher shop has whole chickens. Others sell chicken feet and gizzards. Next door, ... in another meat market, ... the butcher is happy to oblige those who wish a special cut of beef, at no extra cost.

At another spot in the market, fish is for sale that, ... if desired, ... is freshly cut, cleaned and filleted. Nearby dried fish is available as well.

Look at the large array of dried chilies in this store! Chili peppers are another staple of the Mexican diet and food is just not good without their inclusion. Notice the other varieties of dried foods such as small fish, corn, and beans available for convenient storage. Since eggs are not refrigerated in this area, they are stacked among the dried foods.

Upon arrival, guests in this home are served “horchata”, ... a cinnamon and rice milk drink; ... and jamaica, ... a hibiscus

flower tea. Coming next are “chalupas”, ... made up of tortillas covered with sauce, pork, and onion. The main course of soup, called “pozole” (pah sole ee), is set out on the table and assembling instructions given. Beginning with an individual bowl of the base of chicken or pork broth cooked with hominy and spices, guests add chopped radishes, shredded lettuce, chopped onion, ground hot pepper, squeeze half a lime over the whole mixture, and, ... finally, ... add more hot pepper. This room ... with its dirt floor ... is filled with good food and fellowship. Our hostess served us a stew. The beef and spices had been simmering on the stove for some time making it very tender. Small whole white potatoes, pieces of corn on the cob, and cut up nopales were added to the beef and broth. Fresh tortillas were also served. As guests, we brought a carrot cake for dessert. What a delightful time we had enjoying the good food and the thoughtfulness of Mario, Lourdes and their three children.

If you are hungry for American food, do not despair. “Burger King” and “McDonalds” have found their way here. At the huge modern Angelopolis (an-hel-ahp oh lis) Mall, a food court has a wide variety of Mexican and American dishes. People of all ages enjoy the food. Restaurants, small and large, offer drinks, breakfast, snacks or a full meal.

The Flores family has operated their small restaurant and tortilleria for 15 years. One side of the room is filled with a huge grill and tortilla press. A large table is close by where fresh quesadillas and gorditas are served. Your choice of “atole”, a warm drink made from corn, or a soft drink accompanies the meal. Grandmother tells us that she taught her daughter and three granddaughters to operate this small business in their home. Watching the ladies work is enjoyable in itself. Each quietly does her job. Mom has the “masa” or cornmeal dough “setting” in a large container until it is the right consistency. When it is ready, she or one of her daughters takes some of the dough over to the tortilla press, ... squeezes off just the right amount, ... places it in the press, ... uses her foot to operate the machine ... and quickly has a perfect tortilla to place on the hot grill. Another daughter helps in making sure that the grill is ready for the tortillas. When the tortilla is on the grill, sliced mushrooms, Oaxaca cheese, an herb leaf only found here, a little salt, and a special sauce are placed on one half. The tortilla is folded turned as it cooks. The result is a scrumptious quesadilla with a taste all its own. When making gorditas, a spoonful of beans is placed in the tortilla dough before pressing. In addition to the restaurant, neighborhood people come here to buy tortillas. This small shop sells hundreds of tortillas a day. Guests are treated with warmth and care and your visit to Puebla will not be complete without meeting the Flores family and tasting their excellent food.

About 5 hours from Puebla and high in the Sierra Madre Mountains is the town of Huautla de Jimenez. A visit to the market in this town is a great experience. In this city, ... crowded with people and vehicles, ... are stands set up along the side of the road. In many stands, vendors sell peppers and vegetables. The Mazateco people of the area buy and sell other items here as well. Unlike the markets in Puebla, few vendors are set up to sell already prepared food. Most choose to bring their own food when coming here for a day of shopping.

Sweet rolls, ... freshly made at a small bakery, ... are very tempting. Grinding a coarse powered sugar, this boy is getting it ready to make a glaze to go on the hot bread. Preparing the dough, rolling, cutting and then placing in the big wood fired oven for baking is a long process. The racks of cooked pastries will be delivered for sale to restaurants and street vendors.

A dinner at the trout farm is a must when visiting the village of San Antonio. Our gracious hosts own the trout farm on the edge of town. Manuel and Magdalena have a restaurant in their home as well. The trout are caught, cleaned and readied for cooking. The sides are cut to allow the spices to better flavor the fish. In the kitchen, Magdalena also dips the fish in a salsa before spreading sauce on foil, adding some herb leaves and placing the whole trout on the foil. Sliced onion is spread on the trout, more sauce is added, the foil is sealed around the trout and it is placed in a heavy pan for cooking. While the trout is cooking, sauces are made for other dishes. Time and effort are necessary to make a serving of these small peas. This type of “pea” comes off a tree. Some grow it for a cash crop and it is readily available in the market. Meanwhile, out on the covered porch we are seated at a long table. The aroma coming from the kitchen has everyone’s mouth watering. When the moment arrived to open the foil, we all agreed that the trout looked wonderful. Tasting was even better!

The food in Mexico is indeed delicious but ... more important ... is the time spent around the table with Mexicans and others while enjoying the food.

Don’t miss the opportunity to visit the area around Puebla, Mexico and enjoy the food and fellowship. You too will exclaim, “Oh, que rica!”

## ***Lord Give Us These Mountains!***

Ch. 22 (8:27) Filmed April 2004



**This video will begin with Thurman speaking as we look over the town of San Jeronimo. He tells the story of the day in the early 70's when a small plane flew over the village and dropped gospel tracts and so forth. (Approx. 70 seconds in length)**

The homeland of the Mazateco People is in the rugged Sierra Madres of southern Mexico. Catholic churches abound in this area. Some of these churches are centuries old but all are the town's central focus. Inside homes, ... as well as in the churches, ... religious symbolism is pervasive. Parades on Good Friday and Palm Sunday involve entire villages carrying palm leaves and other green vegetation to

be used in the celebration. Funerals with mourners carrying small crosses are common. Statues and paintings of Mary the mother of Jesus and the Virgin of Guadalupe, the Mexican Mary, are in roadside shrines and churches. In some homes the Virgin of Guadalupe shares the spotlight along with feathers, candles, chicken feet and other witchcraft items. Other prominent symbols of superstition include plastic bottles to prevent lightning strikes and an over abundance of scarecrows in the fields. The culture is permeated by centuries of indoctrination in Catholic rituals and pagan gods.

Along the main street in the town of San Antonio is the John 3:16 Baptist Church. Most people, as they walk by, ignore its presence. Nevertheless, like the little plane that dropped tracks of the Gospel of John, this church is reaching out into the homes and communities of these mountains. The paths are sometimes difficult to travel. They may take sharp turns and get ever smaller and more difficult to follow. The destination, however, is what matters. Here in a small concrete block home with dirt floors, Jesus is praised and the Gospel is taught. The songs are in Spanish but the pastor preaches in their native Mazateco language and dialect.

### **On camera singing and preaching**

On another day, ... across the creek and up the hill ... is a home made of mud and sticks. It too has a dirt floor. The small living room of this humble home is filled with people wanting to hear more about Jesus and with people praying and singing praises. Here, too, they learn about the Good News in their own heart language.

### **On camera singing and preaching**

There are other small congregations scattered throughout the mountains. In the town of Huautla, ... down a steep path, ... is a small church located in the basement of a home. Inside the Alpha and Omega Church, the furnishings are spartan and the pews are simple but the Word of God is proclaimed.

In the same town, ... down another path, ... is a brightly painted building. The sign proclaims the New Jerusalem Church. This congregation meets on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. The church meets upstairs. The entrance is small but the big hearts of the pastor and the congregation are making a difference here as they seek to live out their motto that Jehovah is my pastor.

Along another busy street in this same town is a bright yellow building. The bottom floor is a restaurant. The church meets on the top floor.

In the town of San Jeronimo and down a steep hillside, past a lady doing her laundry and a man cleaning out drainage ditch is someone awaking from a drunken stupor. He is sitting in the doorway of the Messiah Baptist Church. This church, like the others is reaching out into the community with the Good News of Jesus.

Walking great distances over difficult terrain is not a problem for the Mazatecos. It is a mile hike down a steep hill to the large recently completed El Campamento Eden training facility. It is located on a small patch of level ground near a free flowing stream. The only way in or out is by foot or by donkey. .

Inside the facility, a small generator powers the lights and the refrigerator. It also powers the projector and sound equipment which is used to show the Jesus movie and other Christian videos. The two wings of the building are dormitories for 40 people each with bathrooms complete with toilets and running water. The auditorium is spacious with room for 300 or more people.

These videos were taken in March of 2004 and, ... even before completion, ... the building was used for training Mazateco pastors and lay people. It was first used during Easter week of 2002 with more than 150 people in attendance and dedicated Easter week 2003.

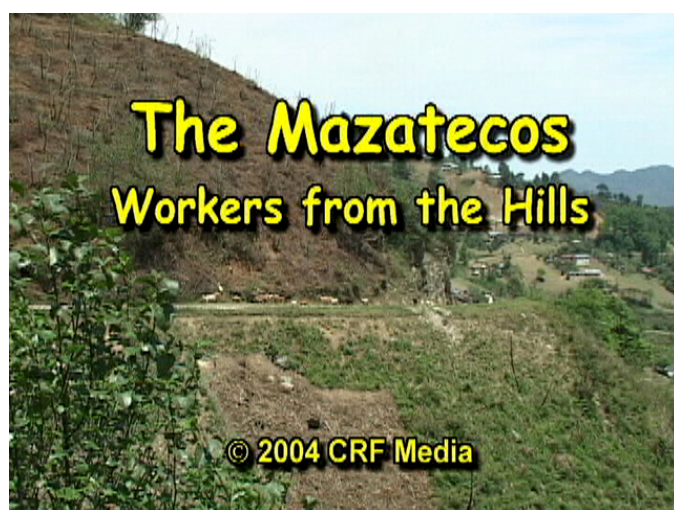
It took two years to complete this facility and it was done entirely by volunteer labor. A total of 14 teams from the United States contributed to the construction as they worked side by side with local believers in this labor of love.

The hope for the future of the Mazatecos of today lies with the few dedicated people who have set a goal of having a church with trained leaders in every village by the year 2010.

This is a God sized task that can only be accomplished by the leadership and direction of the Holy Spirit as He leads dedicated people to unselfishly give their lives to His service.

**Overlay:**

## PRAY FOR THE MAZATECOS



### *The Mazatecos: Workers from the Hills*

Ch. 23 (12:02) Filmed April 2004

The Mazateco People, about 350,000 in all, call themselves *ha shuta enima*, which in their language means "we workers from the hills, humble, people of custom". A rugged and independent people who were never conquered by the Spanish colonists, the Mazatecos never accepted the Spanish language or the God of the Spaniards. In reality, they kept their pagan gods and renamed them to appease the Catholic priests. The Mazatecos still farm the steep mountain slopes much as they did 500 years ago.

#### **MAP**

They live on the ridges and slopes of the Sierra Madre Mountains of southern Mexico. Their homeland extends from the rain forests of western Veracruz to the high deserts of eastern Oaxaca. It requires about 5 hours to drive from Puebla to the major Mazateco city of Huautla (**whoa-tla**) de Jimenez (**Hee-men-ez**).

The trip to the mountains passes through large fields of corn and sugarcane still cultivated with ox drawn ploughs. Sugarcane is the main cash crop and, ... during harvest time, ... large trucks wait in line to be unloaded at the sugar refinery in the city of Calipam (**Kah-lee-pan**). Villages and towns along the way provide quick snapshots of life in rural Mexico. Living here in the mountain foothills are both Mazateco and Nahuatl (**Nah-wah**) people.

In Zinacatepec (**See-nah-kaw-te-peck**) the town square, ... the zocalo (**so-kah-low**), ... common to all Mexican cities and towns, ... features the Catholic church, government buildings, and a central park. The zocalo is a place for visiting with friends, selling items and a place for festivals. The roads are usually wide around this gathering place, but on the way out of town the road narrows providing little room for two-way traffic.

For the most part, the paved road up into the mountains is well maintained; however, overloaded trucks slow traffic. These trucks haul supplies and other goods for sale to those living in the mountain towns and villages. The western slopes of the mountains, ... despite their spectacular scenery, ... receive only sparse rainfall making it difficult to raise good crops without irrigation.

The crest of the mountain pass is at an elevation of about 8,000 feet. The increased rainfall on the eastern slopes is evident from the lush green vegetation. A checkpoint brings traffic to a halt as soldiers check for illegal drugs, guns, and explosives. The pig head hanging from the rafters at a nearby store indicates that freshly butchered pork can be purchased along with a few other goods and supplies.

The cities, towns, villages, and homes are, ... for the most part, ... built along the steep slopes. The mountain ridges are so

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narrow that few buildings can be accommodated and there are very few valleys that are suitable for a town. Huautla is the largest city in the area with a population of approximately 20,000 and the zocalo or town square is at an elevation of 6500 feet. Sunday is market day in this city. Most of the people, ... buyers and sellers, ... are Mazatecos. Some of the older Mazateco women are easily identified by their colorful native dress. The older men still wear white shirts and trousers. Other distinguishing features of these people are small stature and bare feet with wide splayed toes from climbing over the rocks and up the mountains.

Items for sale in the market area take up both sides of the main street. Fresh fruit and vegetables are in abundance as is fresh chicken. Dried fish, as well as fresh fish, are available in some of the stands. Cheese can be purchased in other stands. Looking around, hot peppers of all varieties ... both red and green ... are readily available. For the visitor, a surprise awaits ... ice cream! Hardware stores offer shovels, buckets, and molinos, ... hand carved stone grinders, ... used to grind corn into the meal known as masa.

The very few tourists who visit this area are well rewarded by hand made items and, ... at a bargain price.

Pickup trucks are used as taxis and the meaning of "always room for one more" is quickly learned. Occasionally, a funeral procession winds through town, but this is not a funeral. Instead, it is honoring a deceased relative on the anniversary of her death. The sign says Maria Apolonia Gonzalez on the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death--rest in peace..

About a 30 minute drive down the hill and in a valley is the town of San Antonio at an elevation of 4,300 feet. The zocalo follows the common theme with a church, the government building and people congregating in and around the park.

The public school is located about a half mile down the road. This school is for first through sixth grade. It is also a boarding school for children who live too far from town to commute each day. The high school students must travel to Huautla, but parents who want their children to have a better education send them to Oaxaca or Puebla to boarding school. Today is the last day and, before they can be dismissed for the season, the children are working to clean up in and around their school.

In this town, the residents, ... like the students, ... are required to spend part of the day each week on cleaning and repairs of the city streets and sidewalks.

Most of the people are farmers. Some of the farms are located near the school, while others are on small patches of ground along the creek that runs through town. Still others are high up on the steep slopes. Beans, sugarcane, and corn are the main crops. A few years ago, when the price was high, coffee beans were an important cash crop, but now they are harvested only for personal use.

Jobs are difficult to find and some spend many hours breaking rock into gravel in order to earn a few pesos. The more ingenious workers have mechanized the gravel making equipment. This contraption is noisy but it gets the job done.

Sugarcane, while grown in abundance, is not for sugar. Instead, the juice extracted from the stalks is used to make the alcoholic beverage known as tepache (**te-päch-e**). The stills for brewing the tepache are illegal, but are very common. All the equipment is here ... including the distillery with its condensing tanks. Just outside of the building that houses the distillery is a small bench made from a pole that provides a place for the local residents to sit and drink the freshly brewed spirits. This operation provides a good income for the owner.

Up until a few years ago the town of San Pedro was accessible only by foot or horseback. Now one can reach the town by its narrow dirt road. Like most of the towns in the Sierra Mazateca, it is built on the steep slopes of the mountains, but the common features of the zocalo are here also. Advice from the residents is essential for selecting the correct road that leads out of the town.

Basketball is the main sport played in school. Some of the towns like Huautla and San Antonio have well constructed outdoor basketball courts. Other areas, however, have just a backboard and a hoop along the side of the road or leaning against a building.

The homes of the residents living in town are mostly masonry construction with concrete or tin roofs. At the edges of the towns many of the homes have tin roofs with walls of large cane plastered with mud and straw. Most of the rural homes have a packed dirt floor. Further out in the rural areas thatched roofs are common much as they were when the Spaniards first arrived here. Electricity has only just arrived in some areas and is primarily used for lights. Many villages still don't have electric power. There is no television access, however, a radio station out of Huautla operates for a few hours each day.

While a few now cook with propane, most still use the Mazateco stove. This is a large platform made of wood. The tabletop that serves as the cooking area is covered with 4 to 6 inches of dirt. The wood fire is placed in the middle of the stove where

the meal is cooked in large clay or aluminum pots. This stove is usually located in the same room of the house as the eating area. Smoke from the fire eventually makes its way out an open window or through a crack between the roof and wall.

The homeland of the Mazateco people is a beautiful but a difficult place to live ... and difficult to visit. Yet, it is a place that you will enjoy while walking among these people that know little of the outside world. Improved roads, schools, and communication are changing the way of life for the Mazatecos. Internet access is opening the world to them. Will these “workers from the hills” remain a humble people of custom? Won’t you plan to visit the Mazatecos soon? There is always room for one more!



## *If You Knew Me, You Would Love Me*

Ch. 24 (7:36) Filmed April 2004

The most important task a volunteer can complete while on a mission trip to Mexico, is to come to know and love the people. This is an integral part of the missionary task. The temptation is to think that all Mexicans look a certain way, have a certain manner of acting, or relate to each other in a defined pattern. But we know that God has made us all individuals, so we must get to know individuals instead of relying on stereotypes. Volunteers must come to know and love individuals. That way, instead of thinking of Mexicans in general, volunteers can now pray for Juan, the concrete mason, ... or Lupe, who cooks at her café, ... or Paco’s two young sons ...or visit Pastor E. (...??) in his home. We must put a face on missions.

Let me introduce you to a young lady. Her name is Miriam and she is 17 years old. . She comes from a lower socioeconomic family, and is the oldest of four children. Her family lives in a one-room house. Her siblings and mother all share the same bed. The kitchen is in a room outside the house. Water is collected in a big bucket outside the front door. There is hope that one day the roads in her neighborhood will be paved. Many people “tap into the electricity” by throwing a wire over the power lines to bypass the meter. The city bus system provides service to the neighborhood, but since Miriam lives at the end of the line, it takes a long time to get home.

With over half the population of Mexico under the age of 25, Miriam could be typical of the population in the city of Puebla, however she is much different than others. When Miriam was eight her mother prayed to receive Christ and joined a Baptist Church.. Her father and especially her father’s family were very upset that Miriam’s mother left the Catholic Church. Later that same year her father was killed. The father’s family was convinced that God had cursed them because Miriam’s mother had become a Christian. They disowned the family, and that is when Miriam and her family had to leave their family home and came to live in this neighborhood.

When Miriam turned 16, her mother, who struggles with employment because she is caring for the younger kids, decided that she could no longer afford to have Miriam in the house. Miriam found a place to stay and employment as a nanny working with a family in the city. She was also able to continue her schooling, attending classes in the mornings and help with the children in the afternoons.

Education in Mexico is offered by the government from age 3 to age 14. When students enter high school, they must pay tuition to continue with their studies. Some volunteers helped Miriam so that she could continue studying. Each morning she wakes up at 5 o’clock to prepare for the day. She leaves the house, usually in the dark, around 6 to arrive at school by 7 to begin her school day. She walks a little farther so she can get to school on one city bus instead of having to take two. This would double her bus fare. When she arrives at her stop for school, she must also walk a few more blocks to school. She must use the public buses since there are no “school buses” for Miriam’s school.

During breaks in her classes, Miriam can buy a quesadilla or gordita at the corner food stand. The food is inexpensive, but not always of the best quality. Many Mexicans eat their breakfast in this way. Vendors also sell hard breads, tamales and tacos. Ice cream and atole, which is a corn based hot drink that comes in chocolate, strawberry, or vanilla, are also available.

Near most schools there can be found paper stores, video games, and Internet cafes where students can rent time on

computers or use the Internet. Although only a small percentage of Mexican families own computers, stores such as these make Internet access somewhat of a possibility and allows them to “connect” with the world.

As Miriam rides home, many days she thinks of continuing her education at a public university. The cost is low, about \$75 a year, but she must purchase her supplies, examination fees and other necessities. Miriam has a goal of studying accounting. Hopefully she will be the first in her family to study at a university.

There are millions of young people in Mexico facing an uncertain and challenging future. Most hope and pray for a way to escape their struggle of life. Some look to drugs and alcohol for their escape. Many young girls become pregnant at age 13 or 14 and leave home. This type of culture produces incest, drug addiction, and alcoholism, an environment with little hope for the future.

As you begin to pray for the young people of Mexico, ask God to show himself to them through His Holy Word.

*Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.  
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” John 8:31-32*



**Script needs Corrected**

## ***Working for the Harvest***

Ch. 25 (5:33) Filmed April 2004

**Charles:** The First Baptist Church celebrated its centennial in 1993. First Baptist is considered the “mother church” of the 17 other congregations in the city. It is located near the city’s central plaza on a narrow street and a short distance from a large Catholic Church. Nearby, vendors sell statues and pictures symbolizing the saints of the Catholic Church. Prominent among these symbols is the Virgin of Guadalupe, said to be the reincarnation of Mary, the mother of Jesus. The Virgin of Guadalupe is the patron saint of Mexico.

Yet, inside the First Baptist Church, a small group is studying the Bible. They are praying for the few who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior. They are praying for

the missionaries that this local convention has sent out to various places in Mexico, Central America, and the world. They are also praying for the small Baptist churches that struggle to grow in the midst of people who are culturally Catholic ... a cultural status that has little to do with their understanding of who Jesus Christ is.

Join us as we visit several of the small evangelical churches and Bible studies as they seek to make a difference in a city which is 86% Catholic and only 4% evangelical Christian and 0.1% Baptist.

**Overlay:** ...

86% Catholic  
4% Evangelical Christian  
0.1% Baptist

Hananeel Baptist Church in the neighborhood of San Ramon is located in the southern part of the city. The church is very active with home Bible studies and children's ministries. In October of 2004, they baptized 13 new Believers. Eustorgio Perez is the pastor. He and his wife Maria Louisa have four children. Pastor Eustorgio and his family live in a small home in the nearby neighborhood of San Bartholomew and walk to the church.

On Thursdays, Pastor Eustorgio and his wife travel an hour on two buses to the home of Mario and Lourdes who host a Bible study in their home in a neighborhood called Chachapa. These new Believers own a small butcher shop located in the front part of their home. On this night, the children's version of the Jesus film was being shown. The movie lasted an hour. A good time of fellowship was followed with a delicious supper of stew and fresh tortillas.

Playas del Sur is a mission church of Hananeel. Pastor Gameleel is a bi-vocational Pastor who has been recently ordained. Volunteer groups from the U.S. have helped in construction of the church building. The walls of the building are up and part of the ceiling is in place and, even though the construction of the temple has not been finished, this church has already started another mission in the nearby neighborhood of Santa Lucia.



The First Baptist Church of Puebla is pastored by José Bonilla. He also serves as the president of the local Baptist convention made up of 65 churches. This congregation has the vision to begin as many as seven new works in the coming year. One of the deacons of the church has taken the leadership role of these new works.

Mount Zion Baptist Church is pastored by José Rojo. An English worship service is held here each Sunday evening for the English speaking community.

A home Bible study group meets on Friday nights at the home of Elizabeth and Luis. Elizabeth is an English professor at the University of the Americas and Luis is the owner of several cell phone stores. They are part of an emerging middle class in the city. On this night the group enjoyed a fellowship time with some delicious soup called pozole.

A leadership-training meeting for potential church planters is well attended. This is a 13-week course meeting once a week for 2 hours. The students cannot graduate until they have formed a team to make a church plant.

Another home Bible study group in the neighborhood of Plan de Ayala was begun by Vinicio and Angelica. They felt God was asking them to begin a Bible study in their neighborhood. At the time, they were the only Christians on their block. This study began four years ago but the last two years they have been able to meet on a regular basis twice a week. Has God been working in their midst? Oh, yes! Today there are 15 to 20 Believers in attendance at the Bible studies and there are only two neighbors that are not Christians. God is answering prayer in this neighborhood.

God is moving in the city of Puebla but over 200 more new works are still needed in the city. Jesus said, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest field." Would you pray for more workers for the city of Puebla?



## ***Join the Team!***

Ch. 26 (3:54) Filmed April 2004

We call it soccer. ... They call it football. Yet, the teamwork in achieving a common goal is the same. So it is with those who seek to be a part of the team dedicated to reaching Puebla and the surrounding areas with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Have you ever thought about being a part of this team ... of going on a volunteer mission trip? Perhaps you don't know what you could do ... or perhaps you are uncomfortable in stepping out into a different culture and a different language. Working as a team can overcome many of your concerns. You will be working with local believers who know the customs and traditions of the people.

Once here you will find that there is much to do as you work with us, ... the pastors and members of the various small evangelical churches in the area.

Often times you will be able to encourage us as you join in our worship service and share through testimonies, singing, and preaching.

Each volunteer group is partnered with a sister church, mission, or Bible study group for ministry. You will get to know us and, hopefully, come to love us as brothers and sisters in Christ.

The city of Puebla and the neighboring city of Chalula is predominantly Catholic but few have read the Bible. "Operation Go" is a gospel saturation ministry to distribute gospel packets of the book of John throughout the city. This gives the people here in this city an opportunity to know more about the person of Jesus Christ.

Another focus of volunteer ministry is working with local children through Vacation Bible Schools. For several hours in the afternoons, you will be able to touch the lives of children with the love of Jesus.

English as a Second Language classes are always popular. Teaching or assisting in an ESL class is an excellent method of reaching people with the message of Jesus.

Training is always key in the formation of new works. Several times a year volunteers come to provide leadership training for our Mexican brothers and sisters. Conferences on discipleship, family, marriage, church planting, teaching, and counseling are all helpful for the ministry in Puebla. We need you to help us reach the millions in spiritual darkness.

### **American speaker ...**

As a soccer team must be willing to play on the turf of the opposing team, so it is with volunteers. You must be willing to move from where you are to where the need is. Are you ready to play a key role in reaching the city of Puebla with the Good News of Jesus Christ? Will you share the truth of God's Word with those who desperately need to hear? Are you willing to move out on mission in Puebla?

Jesus said,

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;  
and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria,  
and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Acts 1:8