

dren. The Moms just had a meeting to plan provisioning days to get matching outfits for all the children.

WE'VE BEEN THANKFUL TO SEE HOW THE LADS, Josh & Paloma, have teamed with a single sister with three children who wouldn't have been able to continue in the Family without help, & also another family with children, & the Lord is supplying all their needs.

JUST BEFORE WE CAME HERE THE LORD GAVE US THIS QUOTE to apply to our visiting of Homes, & He gave it to us again when we felt we really had so little to do here except to enjoy living with the brethren for a while: "God help us to change the things that need to be changed, & not to change the things that don't need to be changed, & especially Lord, help us to know the difference!" (OM July 30)

THE LAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN FULL OF EXCITING WITNESSING TESTIMONIES!

The kids sang for the newspaper & the lady reporter was so turned on she wrote down the words to "Voy a Seguir". The same day they also sang at an orphanage & all the kids prayed with them to receive Jesus. It was the first time they had used the new Heart Skit, & the director liked it so much that afterward she went over the main points with her children. Then they had an appointment for a radio interview where the children answered questions & sang three songs, & in closing Jason was allowed to suggest that everyone in order to be happy needs to pray to receive Jesus into their hearts! It was all the kids' witness because Secundus was sick & couldn't go, so Simon took them, & he doesn't speak Spanish. PTL! People have suggested that we go to the TV station next & we plan to as soon as Secundus is well again. The kids have also been singing in restaurants & on the walking street, &



During an interview at the newspaper office in Mexico—This photo appeared in colour!—Stephen-6, Jason-10, Summer-7 & Sherah-8.

after the songs are finished the crowd stays to talk so it's a wonderful opportunity for witnessing.

21/8/81: WE ARE NOW IN ANOTHER CITY where we are awaiting the birth of our new disciple. We were planning to have the baby in the previous city that we liked so much, but when we prayed the Lord definitely told us to come here, so we packed up the next day & came. It is quite obvious that one reason is that there is a large number of brethren here, whom we pray we can encourage & inspire, & we always get so inspired visiting each new Home!

BEFORE WE LEFT THE OTHER CITY A BROTHER CALLED THE RADIO STATION & the lady was so excited to tell him for us that over 200 people had called in to comment on how they liked the songs & interview with the kids. The TV station there did a video of the kids & played it at prime time one Saturday night.

WE'VE BEEN IN THIS CITY FOR ALMOST A WEEK & the Lord is blessing & taking care of us. After there are quite a

few Family here, there seems to be a lot to pioneer & plenty of work for all of us. We met the American brethren who almost all live together in one trailer park, & one evening we drove out to meet the national brethren who live about an hour out of the city & take the bus in each day. We met with the Homes to be sure we didn't take any of their contacts for singing & provisioning.

JUST NOW THE KIDS HAVE GONE TO SING IN THE LARGEST INDOOR MALL. The director gave us written permission to sing whenever we like. We have contacts to sing next week in the hospital where we plan to have the baby & also in an old folks home. Secundus has taken time to map out the city for making appointments & provisioning our needs, as it is so large, which really saves a lot of time.

WE LEARNED A VERY IMPORTANT LESSON REGARDING SICK CHILDREN. When you have so many & one gets sick, it is easy just to see that their physical needs are cared for, pray for them, & then leave them alone much of the time.

But we've realised what an important & crucial time it really is for a child who is sick. It seems that when they are sick they are a lot more susceptible to the attacks of the Enemy & really need help to fight & rebuke & resist him in Jesus name.

PATRICIA-3 HAD HAD A COLD THAT WAS KEEPING HER IN BED a number of days. She wasn't so sick, but didn't feel well enough to be up & around a lot. We noticed that she started complaining about a lot of little aches & pains & itches here & there, but when we would examine her there was nothing. One morning the Lord showed us clearly it was just an outward physical manifestation of the Enemy oppressing her. So right away we prayed & she prayed to rebuke the Devil in Jesus' name, & all the aches & pains & strange itches stopped. We realised that we shouldn't have just left her to herself for these periods when she was ill.

8/9/81: WE'RE STILL WAITING FOR THE BABY, two days overdue now! It has been a new experience & blessing to be here & meet new brethren. All have been really sweet & helpful & receptive.

THE LORD HAS OPENED A LOT OF DOORS for singing & meeting the right people here. The directors of two shopping centers have given us written permission to sing at their centers whenever we like & to pass out lit & collect donations! We also met the owner of an amusement park. Last Sunday he paid the kids 1,000 pesos to sing for 20 minutes & gave them all free tickets for the rides. We had given away a lot of the whole wheat flour we had provisioned, but since we've been here the Lord supplied another 40 kilos of even better flour for free. When we ran out of honey the Lord gave us a honey contact too! The kids have been so inspired to provision & see some good movies lately—*"The Black Stallion"* & *"Raiders of the Lost Ark"*.

Little Lord". The Lord is so good to always give them rewards for their work for Him!

MOBILE SCHOOL TIME: This is something that is always on a mother's mind, especially with a large family, concern for whether or not the kids are all getting the school & Word time they need. Now that we have help & brethren working with us, we are trying to use this opportunity to the limit to have really consistent Word & school time.

WE ALWAYS START WITH THE WORD, & then reading & grammar, then math, then writing exercises. Memory & review time is done right away as soon as the kids are dressed. One at a time goes to the van where Simon is waiting for them to review & memorize with each one. It is such a relief & inspiration to see the kids daily & consistently learning & reviewing new verses. They have already gone thru three charts as they get stickers.

THE BIGGEST HELP HAS JUST BEEN TO GET ORGANISED & arrange the children's materials so that anyone could teach at least the younger children. Becky teaches our Michael -18 months & Heidi-14 months. Mikey & Patricia, both 3, have school together. Stephen-6 & Jamie-4½ have class together. These younger ones have about an hour or so each day that it is possible, & sometimes later in the day they enjoy having an additional science or nature lesson. I usually teach the three oldest ones—ages 7, 8 & 10.

WE REALLY TRY TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE DAYS WE DO HAVE for school, because many times some or all of the kids are singing or helping with provisioning in the mornings & miss their schooltime. We try to schedule their listening time in the afternoon, especially since school is in session now. The three oldest have 2½ hours of school & they can cover

Workbooks are such a blessing in helping to keep one child busy while you are helping a younger one. We plan the best we can, but almost always the Lord leads us as we go & see the kids needs & interests.

PTL, WE ALWAYS APPRECIATE YOUR PRAYERS FOR US. Many times we feel we just can't handle certain situations, but we look to you, Dad & Maria, & your samples & your words & how you did it. We couldn't make it over the humps & bumps without the instructions you give us & the living samples you are to us. Right now the kids are practising their new song in Spanish, "Es Un Milagro". That is such a beautiful little song & so true! It is quite a miracle what your love has done with us & in the lives of the children!

19/8/81: WELL, THE BABY WAS BORN SEPT. 8TH! PTL! It was a good delivery with only about 15 minutes of hard labour & 4 hard pushes & out popped little Christopher weighing 8 lb. 9 oz. Secundus was with me every minute & again my coach & a real spiritual strength to me. We really became one, especially those last few minutes before the baby was born! One thing that made it even more special was being able to have some very precious much-needed time alone with Secundus. It was heavenly! We were so thankful for Simon & Becky & Zack who took care of the seven kids for two days while I was in the hospital, along with the two of their own. That is one of the wonderful blessings of having children & raising them in our wonderful Family!

SO NOW OUR BIG HAPPY FAMILY ARE ALL TOGETHER enjoying the new baby. I can very honestly say that with each new arrival, as the kids get older & are such a big help, it is more of a joy & delight to have a new baby, & the last four have been so much easier to care for than the first four! Last time Jason told me "I was a good boy" &

PTL! & this time one of the first things the doctors said after Christopher came out was "Vale la pena!"

WELL, JUST AFTER WE WROTE ABOUT TEACHING THE KIDS HERE AT HOME the Lord showed us to put them in the public school here, even if only for a month or so. Jason, age 10, especially needed to get away from us sometimes & be around kids his own age. So a school very close took all four of the older ones. It is very good that it is only half-day. This works great for the kids helping with errands in town & also for having a short school in English.

SECUNDUS ASKED ME TO MENTION what a great benefit it is to have a PR brochure, especially when we provision or make appointments to sing—something that explains our work without being churchy like some of our prayerletters need to be. Today we also provisioned business cards printed with the name of the children's singing group & our name & postbox. When we pioneered Finland these were a real help in opening doors. **ZACK & MIKEY ARE NO LONGER WITH US.** His wife & children showed up here & now they are gone to the States to try to get a trailer & then return to Mexico.

ON THE WAY TO THE POST TODAY we stopped to pray that there would be something special, & what a very wonderful answer to our prayer to find the letter from you, Dad & Maria & Peter, & the cheque! We could hardly believe our eyes. It is really the beginning of an answer to our prayers to go South.

THANK YOU FOR SPOILING US with such good things & the desires of our hearts which is mainly to be used by the Lord & a help to you & the Family however we can! Thank you for helping to make us happy with His Love! We will use the money toward a video or going South, or as you said, even both! Thank



"Stand up, stand up for Jesus!" Seek & kids lead out in some old fighting hymns of the faith at Sunday Fellowship on the Mexican border. Zack is on guitar. Photo by Secundus.

you again & again. "You make it easy for us to be good!"

—Love, Seek, Secundus & family. (GBY for your faith!—M/JM.)

PIONEERING/PUBLIC RELATIONS IDEA!

WHEN PIONEERING A NEW CITY the Lord's given us a method to our madness! We've found that when we first make appointments to sing in hospitals, schools, orphanages, old folks homes etc., we can then notify the local newspapers that we will be singing in these places & describe our work. They are usually so interested that they take pictures right away on the spot. So we have to go prepared to have the kids pictures taken.

THIS IS A GOOD WAY TO WIN SOULS & FRIENDS, & the places where you sing are then happy to write letters of recommendation in appreciation for your singing for them. The publicity is a real blessing in setting up good permanent provisioning & other contacts, as the people have already read about you & know that you actually do what you say. Try it! Love, Seek & Secundus! (Great Idea! Keep'm comin'! GBY! WL&PFY!)



Mexican newspaper photo of Secundus & children reaching 50,000!

A Hassle-Free Mission To Mexico!

HELPFUL ADVICE ON GETTING INTO MEXICO WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF TROUBLE!

From Peter & Rebecca, Mexico:

WE ARE NOW IN MEXICO & HAVE STARTED A WORK HERE! TJV! The Lord really blew our minds the whole way & never failed to provide all our needs! We pray this encourages you to go south!

WE EXPECTED MEXICO TO BE A HARDER FIELD than it is. After everything we had read, we almost believed it could be more difficult than North Africa. We want to tell you that everything you read about Mexico is not true, but you have to be prayerful, & when in doubt, don't.

WE ENTERED MEXICO VIA LAREDO. You can get insurance from either AAA or Sanborns. They are both very reputable, although Sanborns has a better book that they give you. Insurance is not required by the Mexican government, but we would recommend you buy it, at least for the trip, as Mexicans drive very offensively.

ONCE YOU GET TO YOUR DESTINATION (if you have one), you won't need insurance for your trailer, only for your vehicle. Minimum coverage for 2 weeks for van & trailer was \$50. We thought it would be much cheaper once we parked the trailer, but it isn't. Insurance for the van alone runs \$80 a month, & we own an old (1974) van.

MOST MEXICANS DO NOT DRIVE WITH INSURANCE, as they can't afford it. We've heard that if you have an accident without insurance & you don't get it straightened out before the police come, everyone goes to the police station, & you being a foreigner are guilty until proven innocent.

IF YOU HAVE INSURANCE,

your agent handles it; if not you'll need a lawyer. We also were told that if it's a minor accident, even if it's not your fault, it's best to try to settle it before the police arrive. But this is just what we've heard, & we cannot say for sure as we had no accidents.

AT THE MEXICAN BORDER, they don't require passports for Americans, only certified birth certificates. Have all your papers ready, including those for your vehicles. We received 6-month visas with no problems (contrary to some testimonies we read). It is probably true that they are tightening up about "missionaries" entering into Mexico. Believe it or not we are not the only Christians trying to reach Mexico. We met a printer who smuggles New Testaments in by the 100s almost weekly.

JUST BE PRAYERFUL & WISE AS SERPENTS. Look like systemites & don't act suspicious. We entered with a cat & dog as part of our cover & had all lit well-hidden. If you bring an animal into Mexico you must get a health certificate from your vet & send it to your local Mexican Consulate along with a small handling fee before you cross the border. They did not ask to see ours, but they might ask you!

BECAUSE OF THE TESTIMONIES WE HAD READ IN THE FN, we were very concerned that we would not be able to bring a lot of our possessions into Mexico, as we had bicycles, a sewing machine etc. Of course we had communion the night before & claimed we would cross the border in 30 minutes. He did it too!

SINCE THEN WE HAVE MET MANY AMERICANS WHO ENTER WITH EVERY ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE IMAGINABLE, including

deep freezers, washing machines etc., with no problems, & they usually sell everything before they go back. So it's possible. We believe that if you have problems it's because you are suspicious-looking or something, or else the official is really a grouch. Just go to another border. We crossed early in the morning before a crowd gathered.

ANOTHER THING IS CUSTOMS. Once you have your papers all processed, they will walk out with you to inspect. We had heard it was customary to "tip" them, but did not know how to go about it without offending them or getting into trouble. Well, the Lord worked it out as the official practically held out his hand for it before he left. TJV we had \$5 ready. As we said, it is not required, but there is another check-point around 20 miles in the interior, & we got the feeling that if we had not tipped them at the border they may have detained us at this stop.

GAS IN MEXICO IS MUCH CHEAPER THAN IN THE STATES. You can fill a 20 gallon tank for around \$8-\$10. We would advise you to never get below 1/2 tank if possible, especially if you use unleaded gas, as not all stations have unleaded. Most roads have little emergency stations that will sell you a few gallons to get to the next city, but sometimes they are out too.

PROVISIONING WAS VERY FRUITFUL FOR US. We almost thought we were in virgin territory. However, the owner or manager must be there, as the workers don't make enough money to help you. We would also ask the customers when the owner wasn't there to help. We found that a lot of the trailer parks