

September 1996

INTERNATIONAL

NEW CITY, NEW CLIMATE, NEW PEOPLE . . . SAME JOB

We have a new home — Toluca. If you look on your world map you will find it 53 km. SW of Mexico City (that is if you have a really detailed map 😊). At 8,790 feet, Toluca is the highest and coldest city in Mexico, a significant shift from Cuernavaca — "the City of Eternal Spring" — where we lived our first six months. It has been like moving from Orlando to Pittsburgh. Now that's a shift of gears! Hopefully our emotional transmission will hold out. So we're praying a lot more and our time with God is all that much more needed and desired. Insecurity and fear are great things to drive you to God. But even though we're now living where the rest of our team lives, our primary focus for a while longer is our language and cultural acquisition. We meet twice a week with a Spanish tutor and have homework and exercises the rest of the week. Sometimes I feel I'm even starting to catch on to this language stuff 😊.



We're in Toluca now . . .

WINNING FRIENDS AND INFLUENCING PEOPLE: Revised and Updated

In Cuernavaca we had a built-in network of relationships with our host family and their friends. But here we knew only the two other OC families. In the two-plus months that we've lived here we have met people in normal ways through them: going to church and attending a weekly youth Bible study. But we've also discovered some new and innovative ways to meet new people. The owners of the house we're sitting (you can see their picture in our July letter) introduced us to the neighbors, but hadn't mentioned that the best time to chat with them is between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m. Wednesday and Saturday mornings as we're all waiting to put our trash in the trash truck. Then we really got talking with them when a puppy we had just bought disappeared. Their consensus was someone had stolen it. And we really got to know a vet and his sister when the next puppy that we bought got sick, finally dying of distemper. At the same time our computer's modem went out so we've had the opportunity to spend hours on the phone with everyone from the telephone company to computer repairmen. And then there was the time we locked ourselves out of the house and had to borrow the neighbor's three-year-old daughter to climb through the bars on the windows to open the door from the inside. (Note: do not try these meet-the-neighbor ideas without adult supervision.) 😊

AND NOW A WORD TO OUR SPONSORS

A missionary friend of ours, Ralph Anderson, said he has noticed something about missionaries' monthly newsletters: we usually emphasize a recent highlight from life and/or ministry. This is an appropriate thing to do since it helps you visualize the importance of your partnership with us. But Ralph pointed out that most of life and ministry isn't highlight film material, but simply and quietly walking in obedience to God in the everyday events of life at home, at the office, in the community, etc. And that true spirituality is not played out on a stage but rather in the commonplace events of life. Thank goodness because that's what fills our lives. And yours too I'd guess.

Tim & Annette



New chores include laundry and lawn.