



December 2009

From former Director, El Roy Ratzlaff. . .

Dear Friends,

Erma and I are enjoying our retirement at the Palm Village Retirement Center in Reedley, CA, but miss working in the EMM Mission office in Pharr, Texas. We enjoyed our work with the Mission for almost 18 years where we corresponded with many of the supporters of EMM. We retired in Reedley because our children thought we should be near at least one of our children in case we needed some help. Our daughter Jean and her husband Peter Penner III live near Reedley, as well as my sister Bertha and husband, Vern Pauls. Another thing that caused us to want to move here is that many EMM supporters live in this area. This is also the area where the former MMM board member, Dr. Arnold Schlichting established seven Mexican churches in smaller villages, and all seven are still functioning churches.

For many years the El Faro (Lighthouse) Church in Reedley hosted the MMM/EMM banquets in Reedley and Erma and I became acquainted with Horacio Aleman, pastor of the church. Horacio attended El Faro as a boy but became involved in gang activities. However he would occasionally attend church and even started interpreting sermons in Spanish for English-speaking preachers. One day the Gospel penetrated his heart and he became a Christian. **Rev. Walter Gomez had a great influence in Horacio's Christian growth.** Horacio was pastor of El Faro several years and later started his own church in Reedley called "Cruising For Jesus." This church sponsors auto shows to influence gang members to attend and then invites them to come get involved with members in their church. Most of the members in the church are born again ex-gang members and they know how to counsel the young gang members. They have counselors for both young men and



Pastor Horacio Aleman



young women. They are quite successful in winning gang members to the Lord. There are 22 gangs operating in the area around Reedley. **Other towns are asking the Cruising For Jesus Church to hold rallies in their area.** Erma and I have started working with this church and are happy to be involved with a church that is winning young Mexican people to the Lord. Horacio has a very effective ministry to gang members. The work is very rewarding. So you see the Spanish mission work continues to be a part of our lives even in our retirement.

I am still a member of the EMM board of directors and we plan to meet with the Board at their annual meetings in February, and we encourage each of you to remember the mission work of the EMM in your prayers and financial gifts. **The generous year-end contributions to EMM have always helped finance the effective work carried on by EMM in Mexico.** Let's each of us consider how we can



continue to help EMM take the Gospel to Mexico.

Erma and I wish for each of you and yours a wonderful Christmas season and the Lord's special favor on your lives.

Sincerely in Him,

El Roy and Erma Ratzlaff

For EVANGELICAL MISSION MINISTRIES, INC.

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