

# Gatica Pipeline



February/ March 2009

## The Situation in Mexico...

Many of you have been wondering how things are here south of the border. To say that everything is fine would be a lie. We have had several violent acts committed here in Reynosa in an effort to clear out the Drug Cartel. Several Military Police, Federal Police and yes, some citizens have lost their lives. There have been several of the major Drug Lords captured and placed in prison.

The government has been trying to clamp down on the weapons and money that are being smuggled in and on the drugs going out to the United States.

We do not fear for our lives, but are very careful about where we go and when we go.

The cartel has threatened or paid taxi drivers to protest against the build up of Military Troops at the border. President

Calderon vows not to change that situation.

We are living in a very different Reynosa than nine years ago. Thank you for your prayers for our safety.



Arrows indicate Reynosa (sm) and Ciudad Juarez (lg) where things are hot.

## A Change in Program...

The recession has begun to hit here in Mexico. The factories are laying off, taking away the pay in dollars and working only four days instead of six.

Jorge and I have been approached by several families who are in need of food for their families. Since Lifting Burdens is also feeling the pinch of

the recession, we have decided to move from the Casa Hogar and set up a "Bare Nes" program to meet the temporary needs of these families.

### *Our Gratitude Box*

We are grateful for...

- Our family and friends
- Our faithful supporters both individuals as well as churches
- The warm sunshine
- Our Mexican family, Armando, Cely, Amanda and Alondra
- The opportunity to serve at Mi Casa and the Casa de los Ancianos in Reynosa, Mexico
- A new "used truck" with no rust
- The chance to celebrate my dad's 85th birthday with family and friends in Grove City, PA
- Tinashe and Sammy for providing us with free entertainment
- Donations of funds...
  1. used to purchase blood pressure kits
  2. to cover Zaid's Operation (Enrique and Belen's Son)
- Donation of knitted blankets for the Casa de Los Ancianos
- God's love and care

## Casa de los Ancianos

Thanks to a donation from River Hills Community Church in SC, and a discount secured by Tracey Carlson in Ohio, we have been able to purchase ten blood pressure cuffs for the old folks home here in Reynosa.

Maria Magdalena, the director, shared with us the other day that they take

over a million blood pressures in one year. It is no wonder that their cuffs have worn out.



A special thanks to Jackie Collins who donated some knitted blankets for our special folks.

## Surprise 85th Birthday...



Chris and Darla Motta, neighbors of my father, planned a surprise 85th birthday party for my dad on March 1st. Jorge and I rearranged our Spring Board of Director's meeting so that we could be in atten-

dance. Over 150 shared in the celebration. He definitely was SURPRISED! Dad was in Florida while most of the arrangements were being made back in PA. Thank you, Chris and Darla, for honoring dad in such a nice way.

## Two former students...

It is always a joy to hook up with former students when I return to PA. Brandy and Shawna Rouse and their dad invited Jorge and I to dinner this trip home. It was great to catch up on their lives and to get some

little tidbits about how I was as a teacher and what they liked and didn't like. Needless to say, there was plenty of laughter to go along with the great food. Thank you, Brandy and Shawna and dad.



## Feeding our friends at the old folks home...



The staff helped us serve over 60 residents.

Lifting Burdens is responsible for feeding at the Casa de los Ancianos each month that has a fifth Thursday. Our friends, Armando and Cely, help us with the food preparation. Our meal was well received. They especially enjoyed the cupcake for dessert. Some quickly removed the icing and stuffed it in their pocket

and said they didn't get one...just like the kids. The oldest resident is 102 years old.



## President's Day weekend...



Our daughter, Laura, tries to fly in to San Antonio every President's Day weekend. This gives us one weekend a year that the family is all together. One of our highlights this year was going to the park to play and to fly Jonny's big Styrofoam airplane. Max, their puppy, got to come along.



## Hurricane relief efforts...

I've spent a few days translating for a disaster relief team in S. Texas. We have gone in to several homes to evaluate their needs after FEMA has either given them some repair money or has turned them down. A

report is filed as to their existing needs and then church groups or volunteers who come are assigned a project to help out. Our church will be working on 5-6 of the most urgent sites the first weekend in April.



## A Smooth Drive Back...

For several Board Meetings we have discussed the need for a better used truck. When we went out to Jerry Taylor Ford, Ryan Taylor (former neighbor and friend of our son, Jonathan) hooked us up with a used 2008 F150 4 x 4 with 20,000 miles. It was such a joy to drive back to Mexico without having to worry about whether it would make it or not. Thank you, Ryan. We have had to dig in to our emergency fund in order to cover the cost of the truck so any help in replenishing our reserves would be greatly appreciated. We had been spending a lot of money over that past few years on trying to keep our corporate trucks running. It was to the point that we could no longer go on at the pace we were spending. One repair just led to another.

Jorge was the only one driving the truck because I didn't want to be stranded out on these roads somewhere. If I needed to go somewhere, I would take our personal truck. It is nice to finally have something reliable. A special thank you to those who have already given to our "Truck Fund".



**We are on the web...**  
**[www.liftingburdens.org](http://www.liftingburdens.org)**

## God is good...

In our last Pipeline I told you about little Zaid needing an operation that would help correct his foot and that the operation would cost approximately \$900.00. Within a week, a check for \$600.00 arrived and a few weeks later, another check for the final \$300.00 arrived. God is GOOD! A special thank you to the two families who gave. When I gave them the money there were tears and arms flew up in the air and a great big "GLORIA A DIOS".



Belen, Enrique's wife, receives the \$900.00 for Zaid's operation.



## Wanted Ads...

Regency School, the Christian school built for the Big Heart Children's Home down the street, is in need of a volunteer to teach English. They would like someone who can commit to one or two years-August through June. Miriam, the American teacher now, will be returning to Texas and plans to marry in August. She has been instrumental in giving them a good base. If you are interested, please contact me at: [mkgatica@yahoo.com](mailto:mkgatica@yahoo.com)