

# the Gardners

## Laying the foundation in MEXICO



Jim, Ivonne  
and children



### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### FEBRUARY/MARCH 2009

A survey commissioned by CCI/USA noted that more than half the people in full-time Christian ministry today had made life-changing decisions at camp. As missionaries, our family has seen the long-term impact that Christian camp ministries have on the young believers in our churches. It has made us firm believers in its effectiveness.

Of the 19 young people called to serve God in full-time service from our youth groups in Culiacán and Navolato, 15 understood their call while attending camp. Ten years ago, Iván surrendered to serve God at camp, and now serves as the pastor in La Cruz (a church plant originating from Culiacán) with his wife and son. Brenda, called of God at camp in 2004, is serving with Radamés on staff at the church in Navolato focusing on the youth ministry and outreach. Erika teaches at a Christian school in Monterrey, and plans to return soon to Culiacán to serve God in the ministry there. After finishing Bible college, Manuel presently serves as the youth leader in Culiacán while working in town.

Camp is a powerful tool in the local church arsenal to reach both young and old for Christ!

When Dr. Argyle Paddock came to us 20 years ago burdened for the youth of Mexico, little did we realize what God had in store for us and Christian camping in Mexico. The original plans, laid in 1989-1990, called for the establishment of a camp and conference ministry to reach the youth through local churches. We planned to introduce the concept to the churches by organizing weekly summer camps throughout Mexico for the first few years and years later purchase and develop a property for a year-round ministry.

After seventeen camping seasons, **Camp META's** Scriptural basis remains unchanged and our vision still clear. It is time to take the Christian camping experience to the next level in Mexico, and it is our desire that you join with us in this ambitious project.

We are excited about purchasing and developing 40-50 acres of prime land in central Mexico as a tool in reaching the lost and challenging believers to consecration.

Even before this "official" commencement of the fund-raising campaign, **the Lord has already provided \$125,000.00** of the \$275,000.00 for the first phase (acquisition and site preparation) through various gifts. Pray with us as we seek to raise the remaining funds for Phase #1 and for the following phases. Consider **Camp META** as a VBS, school, or youth group project.

Please contact **IFM** to contribute or for information on current needs. Updates will also be available on [www.campmeta.com](http://www.campmeta.com) by mid-April. (Please note the attached brochure for more information. Please contact IFM for additional brochures.)

### PRAISES

At the youth rallies in Mexico this past February, we had the opportunity to speak to approximately 1200 public school students, and preach to the general public. The seed of the Gospel was sown, and many willingly received it.

Our support level has risen from **78%** to **89%** since our last correspondence! Please continue to pray with us for God's provision for the rest.

In Christ,

Jim (for Ivonne and the children)