

# the Gardners

## Laying the foundation in MEXICO



Jim & Ivonne  
Children



### CONTACT INFORMATION

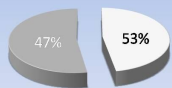


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### SEPTEMBER ITINERARY

9/01 - 9/07	Missions Conf.	Texcoco
9/08 - 9/11	Travel days	Oklahoma
9/12 - 9/16	Missions Conf.	Yukon, OK
9/19 - 9/21	Meeting	Sahuarita
9/29	Moving!	Morelia

### Camp META Property Fund Initiative Phase #1: Land Purchase \$275,000.00



■ Funds Received ■ Funds Needed

### SUMMER CAMP REPORT - 2009

It was an epic struggle for five weeks between the Blue Bombs and the Red Dynamite as the foot soldiers waged a friendly war in the activities, verse memorization in 2 Timothy, cabin clean-up, and punctuality. The battle grounds dotted much of the central and southern Mexican landscape—leading us on our six-thousand mile journey. Thankfully, not much blood was spilled (above normal, that is!), and the swine flu took a vacation. God is good!

On Saturday, August 22, we arrived in Culiacán exhausted, but content having seen the Lord work once again in our lives and in the lives of each of the approximately 500 campers this summer. Even though the attendance was down (about 50%) each week, we were excited to see the Word of God cleansing hearts and challenging believers to be good soldiers of Christ.

Intensive training in counseling and camp organization was the focus in San Luís Potosí the first week of our trip. The extended school year did not permit us to organize their camps this summer. However, Bro. Azael García, one of the assistant pastors, backed up with a team of trained counselors held three weeks of camp successfully, for which we praise the Lord.

Luis, a quiet thirteen year old from Guerrero, was sitting alone weighing the benefits and risks of jumping into a very chilly pool in near Mexico City. While he was making up his mind, Jim sat down beside him and struck up a conversation. Luis had never been to church before and had no Bible knowledge and little understanding of God. He came to camp because a relative had invited him.

He didn't get wet that day except for the occasional splash from the boisterous play of fellow campers. But as we chatted, the Gospel warmed his heart, and he willingly received Jesus as his Savior there by the pool. For lack of space, we are unable to tell the other 11 equally inspiring stories of salvation.

Some soldiers are set apart as part of the special forces, an elite group trained for special missions at the behest of their commander-in-chief. Thirty-four young people answered the call to serve in God's "special forces." One week, 13 of the 16 young people who surrendered to serve God were from the same church. The pastor accompanied his 13 teens to camp, since it was the first time, and every one of them went forward!

Not every believer is called of God to serve vocationally, but all are specially designed by God to fulfill His mission for their lives. What a blessing to see campers each week stand to their feet willing to obey, to suffer discomfort, to remain loyal and disciplined in their Christian walk, and to follow God's perfect will for their lives! In one camp, 15 teenagers raised their hands indicating their desire to be baptized the following weekend in their local churches.

**CAMP META PROPERTY FUND INITIATIVE** - Praise the Lord for gifts totaling **\$1030.00** for Phase #1 of the camp project in the last two months. 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. (If you desire to join others already participating in this project, please contact **IFM** or visit [www.campmeta.com](http://www.campmeta.com).)

**REQUESTS for PRAYER** - We were able to stop by MORELIA, where we signed a contract renting a home. Lord willing, we will move the last days of September. Pray with us as we seek to start a church and continue developing the camp project in this city. **While our e-mail remains the same, please make note of the change in our field address and phone numbers.**

Please continue to pray for God's provision of the remainder of our family support package. **IFM** is encouraging us to pray for an additional \$300 a month. Thank you for your prayers for our family and **Camp META** team. God miraculously renewed our strength on several occasions.

In Christ,

Jim (for Ivonne, Emma, Hannah, and Jimmy)