

## Report of the Totonac Work, December, 2010

Dear Brothers and Friends,

I don't want to interrupt your work, but I can assure you that you will be blessed to hear what God is doing in the Totonac region.

I'll begin with the radio program: in this year we have planted four congregations, in Ermitaño, Arenal, Ciolonia and Skatachuchut, and there are other whole villages that are listening regularly to the Word of God, and Christian congregations that are being raised up by the radio program. I have visited various congregations that invited me because they are listening to the broadcasts. For this reason I realize that the radio program is a very effective tool for spreading the Word of God among the people, especially because the message comes to them in their own Totonac language. I thank you for your prayers and the financial help needed to air the program. In our region it is the only Christian radio broadcast in Totonac, which is the reason it has been such a blessing. It is very essential that we be able to continue, by the grace of God.

I have been invited to various congregations where the broadcast is being received: in San Mateo all are Totonacs; in Coyutla they were celebrating the anniversary of the congregation which began 15 years ago as a result



of the program. Now it is a large congregation. Note the dresses of the Totonac women; they are the Christian leaders among the women. I also helped celebrate the first wedding in the Las Lomas congregation, which also began as a result of the radio program.

On special occasions, I have to be personally in the studio of the radio station, relaying special greetings to listeners. That is another effective way for reaching a larger audience. I am sorry that I cannot always be there, because from Nanacatlan to Poza Rica is a four hour drive in the car.



In Skatachuchut, a former priest gives his testimony about how he came to hear the Word of God and accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior through the radio program. He gathers with us for our study times. We are also using the projector in the studies and with songs for adults and for children in that same congregation. We held a special service to dedicate the house



being constructed for one of the families there.

In Las Lomas, I give a Bible study for the young people every other week. Thanks to God they are very enthusiastic and dedicated to serve God. They, along with Brother Silvestre, visit the new congregations—three new missions which Brother Silvestre is now pastoring.



I was very pleased at the invitation of the linguistic folk who were having a translation workshop in La Union, where Brother Manuel Arenas founded the Bible school. In their meeting, I spoke about the great importance of translating the Word of God, and of my ongoing experience with it among our Totonac people. These were young people studying in universities, very capable and from a number of Christian denominations. There was one who became very interested in the work that I am doing. That was Filomeno Mata Veracruz, who told me that, when he got back to his village, he could not even sleep thinking about how to carry out the vision he had been given. He called all of the pastors in his municipality to a meeting to present to them a plan for the work he wanted to do. And he phoned me that night to tell me what he had done, and that he wanted to evangelize his people using the Totonac New Testament, working with the local pastors. He said it was the power of God that made it possible to speak to all of the pastors in that meeting. He had not expected such a good response because the pastors had their differences. But on that occasion, they were all of one accord. So he asked that I come to see the situation. I spoke with him and left him with several boxes of New Testaments and CD recordings in Totonac. He is already in action! I ask your prayers for this young man.

I want to end this report thanking God for something we have been waiting for, the meeting of pastors and leaders in Zacatlan, Puebla. Brother José Castro led our study time. He came from Mexico City representing the organization "Church with a Purpose." This was a great blessing for all who were there, because we were able to bring together all the workers from



the Sierra Totonaca. We were 16 from Nanacatlan, 10 from Las Lomas, one from Patla, 2 from San Mateo, and 5 from Zacatlan, a total of 34 leaders. This presentation woke up and energized the workers to complete their responsibilities and be faithful to their Lord. Many of them commented that they were expecting more such meetings in the coming year.

I personally would like to thank the brothers and friends for their valuable help for this ministry, for their prayers and contributions for this cause. My wife and I wish all of you great happiness in this Advent season and a prosperous New Year. May God give you blessings in abundance.

Your brothers who love you very much.

Lola and Felipe Ramos