

CLARK PRAYER UPDATE AND CALENDAR

January/February, 2024

Thank you for your prayers for our Family camp in November, followed by our missionary Thanksgiving celebration.

The Lord blessed us, answering many prayers throughout the week. We had close to 500 people attending the camp, with excellent teachings on the Family and Prayer. Numerous believers commented on how these teachings were just what they needed.

Our Thanksgiving gathering together was filled with times of sharing about the Lord's wondrous blessings to us during this year, singing hymns, rejoicing together, and enjoying bountiful and delicious provisions for us from the His kind hand.



Once again, our missionary-kid "Buckaroo" group put a great amount of effort into delighting us with 2 concerts during our Thanksgiving celebration, one with folk music and the other with songs about Heaven.

We have had contact with Diana, (center) on and off for several years. She is not saved but open, and would like to begin a Bible study with us in the new year. She came with her mother and a friend to one of the Christmas programs. They loved it.



As we considered the planning of our evangelistic **Christmas outreach program** for this year, we determined we have just run out of ideas and are getting too old to come up with something fresh, so we passed the responsibility on to our son-in-law, Regis, who headed up a planning group with a few others from the church.

They did an amazing job on the presentation this year! Altogether, we had several hundred guests, and the gospel was presented clearly throughout, with a beautiful meal where the children and youth sang at each table, followed by a gospel presentation in the auditorium. Pray that the Lord would continue to work in the hearts of all who came and heard.



On our biggest night, the attendance was close to 200, with 2 busloads that came over from Puruándiro. We praise the Lord for this opportunity yet another year. Each year, we think it might be the last before He comes, but He is still waiting patiently for more to be saved.





Carlos and Vanesa (right) a young couple from Morelia, brought this family one night and another family the following night--both contacts from the last AMOR Divino outreach, with whom they have been studying the Bible each week. Pray for the salvation of these two families, and the Lord's encouragement for Carlos and Vanesa who want to dedicate their lives to serving Him.

Rosy, from Puruándiro (waving) brought with her these 3 unsaved friends she has been witnessing to. This is the lady in one of the stories from *But Then Came Jesus*, who was born crippled and was left without her mother at a young age, to raise her other handicapped siblings as she could. Her bitterness turned to joy when she came to Christ. Pray that the Lord would work in the lives of these three friends and bring them to Himself as well.



Ted has been working to disciple Juanito, this young boy growing up in a tough situation without a dad. He is a very difficult kid and sometimes, it seems hopeless. Please pray for wisdom for Ted and that Juanito would soon see his need and come to Christ.

We also need prayer concerning modifications to the young boys' discipleship program for the new year. We will likely continue with the same boys, but some of them also desperately need Christ in their lives. Pray for salvation for these, and growth in Christ for Samy, a firm believer, but young, and dealing with hard happenings in his home as well. (Samy is below with his family--far left)

We were delighted to re-connect, in December, with Manuel (second from left), and his wife Ana (in pink) with whom we worked for years when we were young missionaries in Salamanca. They have since served the Lord in Oaxaca, and many years in Spain. Both Manuel and Ana are fantastic and passionate evangelists.

Salomón, husband of Alicia, for whose salvation we have prayed for years, heard Manuel's moving testimony at church when he came to preach, and loved it! He invited Manuel and Ana to his house for a meal. Salomón has been unable to see how desperate his sinful condition is, and see that only Christ can save him. He professes to believe, but the fruit is not there; he continually goes back to alcohol and sometimes drugs, which makes him violent towards his family. But ironically he reads his Bible early each morning and comes to church. Pray for his salvation and grace and hope for Alicia.



Remember Moisés and Esperanza, (right), the couple from a nearby town who began to study the Bible after an AMOR Divino presentation near their home a year and a half ago? We feel she has truly come to trust in Christ. Moisés has appeared to have all the information in his head, but not in his heart. However, he has regularly attended church with his wife and readily accepted the Bible studies in his home.

Early on, we discovered that he and Manuel (see last picture of page 2), were from the same area of the country and had been close friends while studying at the university in Morelia. They had not seen each other for many years, so when we took Manuel and Ana to visit them, they had a grand time reminiscing about old days. However, Manuel and Ana wasted no time in getting to the point, as to where Moisés' heart was with the Lord. Moisés and Esperanza ended up inviting Manuel and Ana to spend two nights with them in their home. They faithfully urged him to believe in Christ with all his heart. He seems to have come to a point of decision with them, praying a heartfelt prayer in their presence. We long to see the reality of this decision in Moisés. Please pray.



You may remember Ester, from Denmark, who was saved during her time here in Mexico, and took part in the discipleship program at the camp in 2021. We were thrilled to have her visit again, after more than a year. She came for the wedding of Isabel Tuohy (Annie's close friend and co-author of *But Then Came Jesus*) to Edy Mora (Regis' brother). Ester has been a faithful witness for Christ back in Denmark, and has translated Mark Cahill's book, *A Heartbeat Away*, into Danish. The Lord used this book to help her understand the gospel and she wanted to see it available in Danish. Please pray that God would continue to strengthen and encourage her in her love for Him and His Word, and use her in a life of service to Him.



LATEST NEWS ON BEREA COFFEE COMPANY NEED FOR MORE PRAYER!

We just received word on the 29th of December that Berea Coffee has lost its case regarding the paying of sales tax. This of course is very disappointing and quite surprising, as we just recently celebrated the victory in Elsa's case, where some high officials in SAT Morelia went to bat for us, confirmed with SAT Mexico City that we do not pay sales tax, and even began returning that very sales tax to us! But we firmly believe God is in total control.

The brief history is that just like in Elsa's case, SAT is claiming that Berea Coffee (as a corporation) should pay sales tax. About 3 years ago we lost this case but then won the appeal. This means the case was tried again and this re-trial is what we just lost. After the recent victory in Elsa's case, we expected this case to logically follow suit.

We can now re-appeal or ??? We need the Lord's wisdom as to how we should proceed! Please pray that we would be led by Him in this decision. We are wondering if He would have us give up all legal alternatives and entrust ourselves wholly to Him, either to have the business continue or not.

Adding to the challenge is the fact that about 4 months ago the state government started an audit of Berea Coffee, and Social Security too, has begun to pursue us. Elsa firmly believes that the same people that corruptly began the case against her 13 years ago, are determined that they are going to win in the end, and so are behind the present problems. In truth it is hard to say. But it is all pretty bizarre!

Please join us once again in prayer that God's will would be done, and His Name glorified.

CLARK PRAYER CALENDAR FOR JANUARY / FEBRUARY, 2024

JAN. 1-6 Pray for the planning for our next AMOR Divino week, to take place the middle of February. Presently our plan is to cover the city of Maravatío, 40 minutes from Cd. Hidalgo where Michael and Sofi live. There are so many details to plan ahead. We need the Lord's direction and wisdom. Pray especially for the Lord to move powerfully in the hearts of those who will be hearing the gospel and receiving the gospels and tracts that week, that they would be sensitive and prepared before the time. Pray that the Spirit would stir in them a longing for the truth. We have heard from numerous contacts from past AMOR Divino outreaches, that they had been praying for God to show them the truth. May many in Maravatío have hearts that are longing and praying for the truth before our week there.

JAN. 7-13 Please pray for the Parents in Action camp this weekend. Pray for the parents to have a heart for the salvation of their children, and for training them in righteousness. May the Lord use the book and Bible study homework to help in accomplishing these objectives. Pray that the hearts of the children would be turned toward their parents, to humbly receive discipline and instruction from them.

JAN. 14-20 This week, remember in prayer all who heard the gospel in the Christmas presentations, not only at Camp Berea but in many churches throughout Mexico. Pray that the Lord would not allow them to forget, but that the seeds planted would be protected and watered and cause many to be saved.

JAN. 21-31 Pray for Diana (see picture on p. 1) as we study the Bible with her, that she would come to trust in Christ as her only hope for salvation. Her friend who came with her to the Christmas presentation also wants to study. Her mother, doña Finita, is extremely Catholic, but she loved the presentation of the gospel, and Diana told us she cried through it all. She is living with Diana for several months. Pray that she would also attend the Bible study and be saved.

FEB. 1-10 Pray for the new challenges for Berea Coffee Company. Pray for wisdom and guidance for us, and for the Lord's powerful hand working on our behalf against "powerful" and corrupt forces. We love Jehoshaphat's prayer in 2 Chron. 20:12, and feel it is the perfect prayer for this situation: "O our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude who are coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You."

FEB. 11-17 Please pray for Carlos and Vanessa (from p. 2) and other young couples desiring to use their lives to proclaim the gospel. Pray for Christ's wisdom and love to rule them as they teach Bible studies to unsaved families. Pray that the Lord of the Harvest would raise up many more like them to take the gospel to the great harvest in the state of Michoacán. Pray for Ester in Denmark, that the Lord would guide her and protect her as she seeks to grow and serve Him.

FEB. 18-24 This week is our AMOR Divino outreach in the city of Maravatío. We expect over 100 believers to join us in this week-long effort (Sunday through Friday), to deliver a gospel of John and gospel tract to every home in the city and carry out gospel presentations in parks in the evenings. For the believers: please pray for travel mercies for those coming from other places, for protection throughout the week, from evil men, dog attacks, etc.; for boldness and wisdom as we speak to the lost and for the love of Jesus in our hearts toward them. Pray for us, according to Hebrews 13:21, that He may "equip us in every good thing to do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ..." Pray for the mighty work of the Spirit of God in those who hear and receive the material, that they might be convicted of sin and of their need for Christ and that their hearts would long for truth and for the righteousness of God through faith.

FEB. 25-29 We appreciate your prayers for our discipleship program with the young boys here at the camp, along with the older girls who are still with us. Pray for Samy's dad, Salomón, (p. 2). Pray that the Word of God would come to him in power, with the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. (1 Thes. 1:5). Pray that he would come to recognize his sin and inability to save himself, and believe in Christ only for his salvation and that the Lord would transform him by the renewing of his mind (Rom. 12:2). Pray for patience for Alicia and grace poured out in her life. She has been such an example to us of cheerful waiting on the Lord. Pray for each of the children to grow to love the Lord and His Word with all their hearts.

FAMILY PICTURES



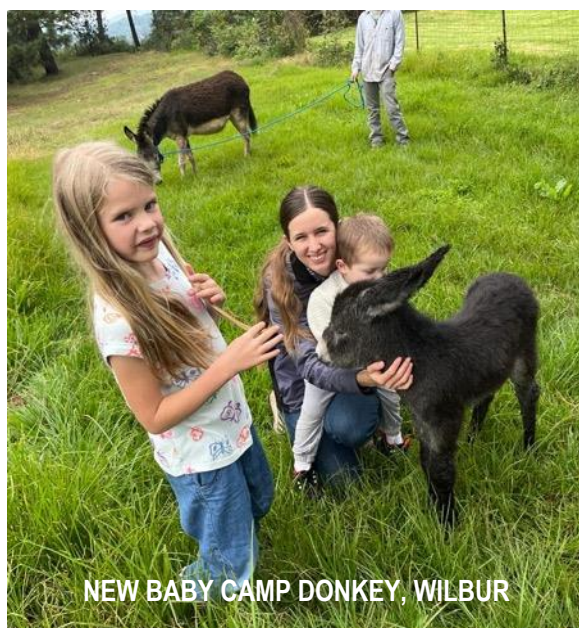
CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH THE CHURCH IN NEARBY VILLAGE



ISABEL AND ANNIE



Choosing poinsettias in greenhouses near Cd. Hidalgo for Christmas presentation

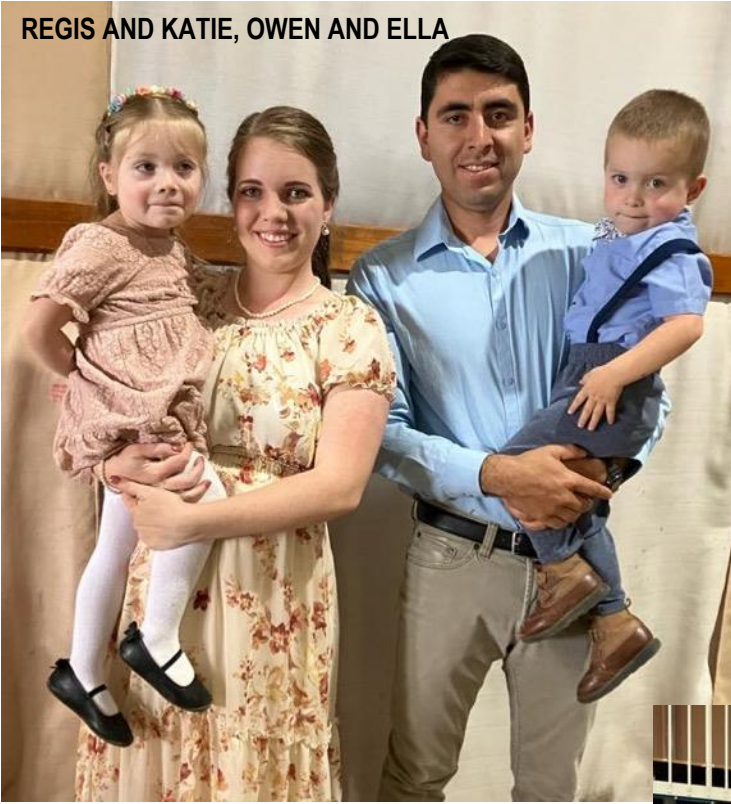


NEW BABY CAMP DONKEY, WILBUR



MAKING CHRISTMAS COOKIES WITH AUNT ANNIE

REGIS AND KATIE, OWEN AND ELLA



COUSINS -- ELLA AND JULIE



**JULIE--GOOD
KITCHEN HELPER!**



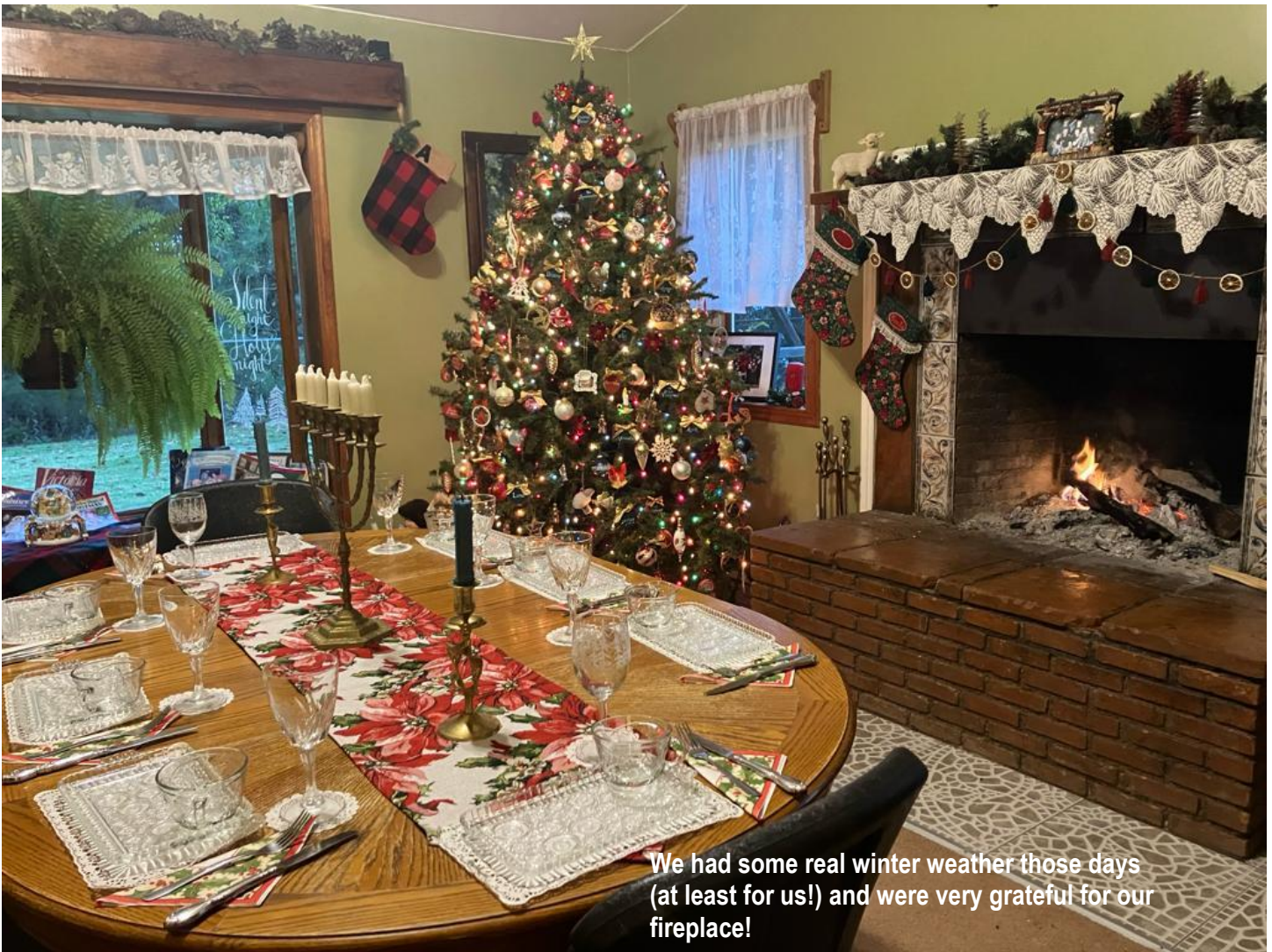
**THE TWINS LOVE
AUNT "NEE-NEE"**



CLARK FAMILY CHRISTMAS

How blessed we were to have 4 days together as a family!





We had some real winter weather those days (at least for us!) and were very grateful for our fireplace!



Grandkids coloring table topper Aunt Annie made for them.

FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION



HIKE AND SCAVENGER HUNT





CHRISTMAS CAROLS



GAMES



BEN-JUDAH AND STRUDEL



ELLA AND OWEN

MATEO ECHEGARAY

By Annie Clark

The year was 1979. The place--Cusco, Peru. Mateo Echegaray stepped off the sidewalk outside his music storefront and slowly crossed the cobblestone street to a nearby food cart. He ordered a butifarra, (traditional Peruvian sandwich known for its famous Catalan sausage, accompanied by other delicious toppings,) and sat down on a three legged stool to wait for his meal. As he sat there, his thoughts drifted back to the conversation he had had with his good friend Miguel (part owner of the music store), only two days before, as they had climbed Vinicunca, also known as the Mountain of Seven Colors. This rare tourist attraction was near where Mateo had grown up, as were many other famous places, such as Machu Picchu and Saqsaywaman, both ancient ruins of the Incan empire which had once inhabited the area.

Mateo had visited them all many times. He had done everything he could think of to try to fill his life with adventure and happiness. And yet, he just couldn't understand the emptiness.

"Our music store is prospering like never before. I am healthy and strong. I live in one of the most beautiful and vibrant cities in the country. I've visited the places that are supposed to provide moments of unprecedented happiness and soul quenching, and yet I'm bored with life. I've not found the happiness any of these things promised." he confessed to Miguel in a disheartened tone as they beheld the breathtaking view before them. "It's all fun while it lasts, but it never lasts long enough." he had complained.

As the lady with the colorful headpiece at the food stand handed Mateo his butifarra, a thought flashed through his mind. It seemed ridiculous at first, but then again, why not try it? He became so excited, in fact, about the idea he had just had, he almost forgot to pay for his meal and nearly ran into a llama being pulled along by an old man, as he crossed the street back to his business. He saw no reason why it wouldn't work, and it might be just the adventure he needed to deal with the boredom of life. 'Besides,' he reasoned, ' *Mateo Echegaray Travels by Motorcycle from Cusco to New York*', sure would make a good headline for the New York Times.'

As the days went by, Mateo continued to formulate and perfect the plan in his mind. He calculated that to buy the motorcycle and get enough money for the journey, he would have to sell nearly everything he owned. This made him reconsider. He wondered about the wisdom of following through with his daring plan. He was part owner in a successful record business, besides having a good job as a librarian. He also served as a volunteer firefighter. He would have to give all this up to undertake his adventure.

Apart from the financial expense, he also had to consider the uncertainties and dangers he might face along the way. Having to travel through ten countries, one of which required special documents to enter, was a daunting prospect, not to mention the most difficult border crossing which would be the infamous Darien Gap between Columbia and Panama. The Darien Gap was a narrow swath of mountainous jungle 70 kilometers long. The only land

connecting South America and Central America, it was alive with poisonous snakes and treacherous swamps. For hundreds of years, the only type of people attracted to the Darien Gap had been scientists, explorers, migrants, criminals, and other shady characters. Although under the overall control of the Columbian military, the area was overrun by narco-traffickers and guerrilla forces. There were no roads through the Darien Gap, making the prospect of getting through on a motorcycle nearly impossible. Of course, there was always the option of going around that section by boat. Mateo pushed the thought out of his mind for the moment.

After considering the pros and cons, he decided that if this adventure could possibly fill the void in his life and give it the purpose it lacked, no price was too high.

On the beautiful summer morning of July 30th, 27-year-old Mateo stood proudly beside his 125cc motorbike, ready to conquer the world. He had \$1,000 carefully saved for the trip. He grinned as he waved to his friends and family who had gathered to see him off. His mother wept, his friends looked enviously at the new motorcycle, his younger siblings yelled and hollered enthusiastically, and his father looked on dubiously, making it clear what a hair-brained idea he considered the whole plan to be.

As Mateo sped off down the cobblestone street, with dogs barking wildly as they chased the wheel of his motorbike, he felt a new surge of excitement run through his body, as he began his journey toward New York and his unknown destiny. Little could he have imagined then, just how radically his life would change after this.

BUT THEN CAME JESUS...

Saltillo, Mexico. (January 1980)

Josué and Sergio stopped the car opposite the Christian couple's house. The downpour had not let up for an instant and they braced themselves as they jumped out of the car and scrambled through the torrent, jumping over puddles as they went. The two men were Christian college students who had an eagerness to share with everyone around them what they had found in Jesus.

Sergio knocked loudly. When the door opened, they were met by a middle-aged man with a wide toothy grin. He showed the young men inside the dark house lit only by a few small candles, while they waited for the return of the electric power. The man's wife soon appeared in the kitchen doorway. She smiled warmly and invited them to take a seat while her husband went for the 16 mm. movie projector and screen he had promised to loan them for their evangelistic effort at the school. As Josué sat down in one of the dining room chairs, a movement in the living room caught his eye and he turned to see the shadow of a man sitting on the sofa trying to warm himself. Soon their host returned with the projector and screen. Josué inquired about the young man in the living room.

"His name is Mateo Echegaray." their host began. "He came here about a week ago, asking for help. He started his journey on a motorcycle over 5 months ago from Peru and is trying to get

to New York. Someone in Southern Mexico gave him our address and told him that if he needed a hand on his journey, to come to us, because we were Christians.”

Josué and Sergio were intrigued and told the couple they'd like to be able to talk to him for a few minutes, to hear more about his adventure. The couple readily agreed and showed Josué and Sergio into the sparsely lit living room. They introduced the young men to Mateo and explained that they were interested in hearing more about his exploits along the way.

For the next hour, Sergio and Josué listened attentively to Mateo's story. He recounted how he had ended up having to take a boat to get past the Darien Gap, realizing the danger was too great. "I only stayed in a motel one time in Panama City," he said. "That's where I began reading the Bible for the first time while I waited for my mother to wire me some money." I always managed to get free housing everywhere I went, whether in someone's home or in a church, or even at a fire station. All I had to do was bring out my volunteer firefighter's ID card and they would immediately offer me free board." He laughed as he recalled how repairs to his motorcycle had always been done for free after promising to attach the mechanic's advertising sticker to his cycle.

As his story unfolded, Mateo told them how indignant and disappointed he had felt with his religion when he was sharply denied help by some Catholic priests along the way. He also remembered how twice, he had been on the highway during a thunderstorm with torrential rain pouring down on him. In those moments, he had cried out to God, asking Him to keep him alive and get him out of harm's way. "God answered my prayers," he marveled. He had also had contact with some Christians in Central America who had invited him into their home.

"Well you know," commented Josué as Mateo ended his long account. "I read a book awhile back about three Englishmen who decided to go from the tip of Chile all the way to Alaska on bicycles! Your story reminded me of it." He continued, "Only one of them ended up making it the whole way. But one of them, (the author of the book,) came to know Jesus as his Savior during their journey."

"Sounds like an interesting book," remarked Mateo. "I'd really like to read it if you would loan it to me." he added hesitantly. "Of course!" replied Josué. "It's at our house, but you can come over for it whenever you'd like."

Early the next morning there was a knock on the door of Sergio and Josué's little apartment. There was Mateo, just as eager as ever to read the book of the three Englishmen. Sergio invited him to sit in the living room while Josué went to find his copy of, "Six Wheels Northward." As he handed it over, Josué mused inwardly, 'Well, that's the last I'll see of my book.' But much to his surprise, Mateo enthusiastically grabbed the book and sat right back down on their sofa to read it. He didn't leave their house, in fact, until he had finished the whole thing! He then gave it back to Josué. He was an avid reader and was fascinated by the story.

During the following days, weeks and even months, the believers in Saltillo shared Christ with Mateo repeatedly. He listened attentively, for he had been convinced that this was the truth

during his stay in Southern Mexico with the Christian family. Yet he wavered in putting his personal faith in Jesus. He knew it would change his life dramatically.

As he prepared to continue his journey northward to Monterey, Mateo felt sad to go. He had made friends with these kind people and would miss them. But he was determined to finish what he had set out to do, and Monterey was the place he needed to go to get his visa to enter the United States. Josué had written down a friend's address for Mateo to look up when he arrived in Monterey. As he stuffed the address into his coat pocket, Mateo felt another piece of paper already in the pocket. He pulled it out and smiled. "Look Josué, this was the address that the people in the South gave me and it's what led me to you guys." Josué grabbed the little wadded up piece of paper and began studying it. Soon he raised his eyes with a look of amazement and said, "Well Mateo, it's a wonder you met us because the street name is right, and the house number is right, but this address is in a different city!"

Monterey, Mexico. (March 1980)

"I can't believe what just happened!" Mateo muttered, as he spat on the sidewalk of a street in downtown Monterey. His backpack with all his official documents had just been stolen! "Now what!" he moaned. "It'll take months to get new documents from Peru, and what am I expected to do in the meantime?"

Mateo was right about it taking months, for it was all of three months before his new passport arrived in Monterey. But he needn't have worried about having nothing to do while he waited. David Clingan was a kind and honest man and Mateo enjoyed spending time with him and the other three college-age students he boarded with. He would travel between Saltillo and Monterey frequently to visit his new friends. All these people had something in common. Every one of them would always share the message of the Bible with him; explaining that God, our Creator designed us to be in perfect fellowship with Him. In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve broke God's law and were separated from that communion and joy they used to share with their Maker. That's how sin entered the world and with sin, death. God was righteous and just, and could not simply leave sinners unpunished. The Bible clearly stated, "The wages of sin is death..." (Rom. 6:23) That was why man needed a Savior. Someone had to pay the debt for sin by dying. We were the offenders so we deserved to die. But Jesus had come and become like us to take our place and die for us so that we could become like Him—children of God.

Mateo had heard it many times, yet he wavered. Could this truly be the answer to the emptiness he felt? Could Jesus fill the void that not even a trip of a lifetime had been able to fill?

One day Mateo finally poured out his heart to God in a simple prayer. He told the Lord how empty and void of happiness his life was, and that he knew it was because of his sin. In child-like faith, he asked the Savior to come to his heart and make it clean through the blood of Jesus.

At that moment a new Mateo Echegaray rose and he realized something was different. At first he wondered what had happened because he had never felt so light before. It wasn't like he had made it to New York or had just won the lottery. It was 10 million times better. He was a child of God, forgiven through the sacrifice of Jesus on his behalf. He had peace! He was truly happy! The feeling of emptiness was totally gone. He smiled as he realized that his journey was over. He had set out looking for happiness and purpose; and he had found it, in Jesus!

The following days and weeks were busy ones for Mateo. He was so excited about his new life, he wanted to tell everyone he met how Jesus had brought peace and meaning into his life. In fact, the believers had rarely seen someone so eager to share his faith with others as was Mateo. He never missed an opportunity.

"Let's go to the tienda to get some bread and milk for supper." Josué suggested one evening while Mateo was visiting Saltillo for a few days. "Sure!" Mateo agreed heartily. "I'm going to give out all these tracts from here to the tienda." he determined, as he picked up a big stack of tracts from the box by the door. "Mateo," Josué laughed, "It's only a block and a half to the store. There's no way you can hand out that many tracts."

Josué shook his head in disbelief as he watched Mateo hand out the last tract in his pile. He wouldn't have believed it unless he had seen how seriously Mateo took his task of sharing the gospel with everyone around him. He knocked on the windows of parked cars to talk to those inside, he stopped people on the street, he gave out tracts to other customers in the store, and of course he gave one to the cashier as well. He was unashamed of the gospel and did not mind interrupting people's activities to share the good news with them.

What else in life mattered anyway, more than knowing where you go when you die. Besides, we're going to be in the next life a lot longer than we are going to be in this one. We'd better make sure about where we're going to spend all that time! Mateo figured that not sharing the gospel would be like seeing a blind man walking toward a cliff precipice and not shouting out a warning just because he might be offended.

Mateo put his head between his hands and sat in total silence. He was struggling inwardly to know what he should do. He had set out from Cusco with the goal of getting to New York. But of course, he was no longer the same person and his life goals had taken an unexpected turn in a totally different direction. He no longer cared about fame or trying to fill the void in his life, for Jesus had given him eternal life and all Mateo wanted to do now was to serve the Lord who had shed His precious blood for him.

However, what would the Lord have him do now? Should he return to Peru or stay in Mexico? Mateo struggled with these questions, desiring to know God's mind in the matter. One day he finally decided, "I set out with the goal of reaching New York, I will finish that goal. And I can use the opportunities the Lord places in my path to share the gospel with the people I meet along the way."

As they parted, the believers in Mexico felt a pang of sadness to think that they might never see Mateo again. And yet there was a joy over seeing what God had done in this young man's life that overpowered the sorrow they felt at his parting. 'And ultimately, there is no such thing as a final goodbye among Christians,' thought Josué as he waved to the disappearing figure of Mateo Echegaray, riding his small motorbike on to New York and his future.

Epilogue: Mateo ended up reaching Binghamton, New York about one month later, where his visit was noted by the Daily News. He used the occasion to tell the news reporter about his experience in Mexico and what God had done in his life. David Clingan received a letter in the mail with a newspaper headline enclosed in the envelope. It was from Mateo. On it was a picture of him with his 125cc motorcycle.

His plan was to cross the country to California where he hoped to find a job on a steamer heading to Lima, Peru. What happened after this, we do not know. Josué and David, (who shared this amazing story with me) have lost all contact with Mateo. But we look forward to the day when we will meet him in Heaven and then we can ask him to fill us in on the rest of the story!

Local

The Evening Press, Binghamton, N.Y.
Thursday, June 19, 1980 3-A

UNION OFFICIALS WERE ASHAMED AND FURIOUS AND TWO or six developers were unable to build last summer because of the ban. Concerned about the \$20,000 report, which examines Endicott's water supply and recommends ways to increase the amount of water.

The Endicott water commission is considering the report and is expected to make recommendations to the village board in the next few weeks.

Endicott officials agree with most of the re-

Louis G. Morris, chairman of the Endicott water commission, said today commission members believe the system's capacity is 13.3 million gallons, not 13 million gallons.

"It doesn't give us enough margin to expand for our current users," he said. "The critical thing in any system is what happens in a critical situation. We feel if we expanded our water customers beyond where we're at, we'd be playing Russian roulette."

Morris said his figures on the system's ca-

pacities are based on the water supply. He said, however, that although officials are concerned about a limit on adding in the town, the problem does not seem urgent.

"If any of these developers were really going to there would be more noise," he said.

Morris said the commission's decision to impose the moratorium was based on a report done more than a year ago by Groundwater Associates, a consulting firm from Ohio.

Morris also disagreed with several other recommendations in the report, including a sug-

gesting a change in the moratorium. He said, however, that although officials are concerned about a limit on adding in the town, the problem does not seem urgent.

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Morris also disagreed with several other recommendations in the report, including a sug-

more water from the aquifers now used.

He said the village already has decided it should build a new well, perhaps in Endwell, before redeveloping existing wells on South Street. He said that information also is based on the Groundwater Associates report.

The report also suggests that pumps at the water department be automated to prevent tanks from getting too low on high demand days. Morris said automation would have no bearing on the capacity to serve more customers.

Regents tests won't be void

New York's education commissioner today ruled out the possibility of waiving all statewide Regents examinations, being taken this week by about 150,000 high school students.

Commissioner Gordon M. Ambach made the announcement this morning in response to reports that copies of some of the tests were available in advance in New York City.

At the same time, Ambach issued special guidelines for the state's superintendents and high school principals, to be followed during the taking this year, said Christopher Carpenter, public relations director for the State Education Department.

Each superintendent is responsible for ensuring that there is no cheating in his district, he said. Superintendents, who should report any evidence or suspicion of cheating to the Education Department, should ask teachers to scrutinize test results for patterns of correct and incorrect answers.

Also, teachers should look closely at test performances that are out of line with students' daily work.

If any Regents examinations are invalidated because of cheating, they will be invalidated at the local level by district superintendents, Carpenter said.

Also, Ambach said this morning that the state Education Department will use all avenues — including revocation of individual tests and possible prosecution — if it finds evidence of cheating from under sales of the tests.

Earlier this week, New York City newspapers reported that copies of the tests were being sold in New York City. The Education Department has no reason to believe that cheating might have occurred elsewhere, Carpenter said.

Peruvian motorcyclist sees U.S.A. in a friendly way

By BARR VAN ATTA

Mateo Echegaray Andrade may be short and slightly built like most Peruvian Indians, but when he plans a vacation, he doesn't do it in a small way.

Although he had never been outside his native land before last summer, Echegaray luxuriated in a leave of absence from his librarian's job, packed his clothes and blankets onto the back of a motorcycle and began a year-long tour of the Western Hemisphere.

He is in the midst of a 14-day visit to Carol A.J. Stanley, the State University of New York at Binghamton softball coach, whom he met when a team she played for visited Peru.

"Quite honestly, I don't really know," Echegaray said through translator Ann Martinez yesterday when asked why he made the trip. "I liked the idea of getting out of a routine... I wondered whether I could take a long motorcycle trip and, when I decided I could, I went. I just put my faith in God."

His only complaint is a sore back that developed in Binghamton, he thinks, not from riding the motorcycle but because he stopped.

On July 30, 1978, Echegaray, 27, left his home in Cuzco, Peru, a small mountain townback to the 18th century, known to American tourists only as a train-stop on a tour of Inca ruins. He had with him \$1,000 carefully saved for the trip.

Riding a Honda 125, he traveled through Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama, where he took "small stops" — he pronounced it "chips" — through the canal.

Short of cash and waiting two days in Panama City for his motor to wire him money, he began reading the Bible. After riding through Central America, he continued his religious studies during a five-month forced layover in Mexico City after losing his visa and other papers at the back of his cycle.

While in Mexico, Echegaray stayed with university students and found odd jobs. But, said Stanley, he also was forced to give up his permanent job in Cuzco, because his leave of absence had expired.

After receiving a new visa at the Peruvian embassy, Echegaray traveled through Texas, Arkansas,

Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, D.C., New York City — where his visit was noted by The Daily News — and on to Binghamton. Tomorrow he will head back across the country in California. "If the motorcycle is good," where he hopes to find a job on a steamer to Lima, Peru, before his visa expires Aug. 31.

If the motorcycle breaks down, Echegaray says, he'll sell it to raise money to get to the coast. But, he's hoping it will keep working, not only so he can ride it to California, but so he can reclaim the hefty tariff he paid to take it out of Peru.

Although Echegaray had no friends to visit during his trip except Stanley, finding lodging was no problem. Between visiting churches, where he met fellow Christians, and fire stations, where he flashed his volunteer firefighter's ID card from Cuzco, the Peruvian traveler always found free food and shelter.

"I have old friends I knew and new friends for the first time," he said, smiling. "There are some awful people, but there are some good people in all countries."

Repairs to his motorcycle always were done free after Echegaray promised to attach the mechanic's advertising sticker to his cycle.

"When I found the need to spend money, I spent money, but I never found any problem with having. The only motel I stayed in was in Panama City," he said.

Stanley met Echegaray in January 1979 when she and members of the championship Hank's Painting women's softball team was invited to play in Peru. The team stayed at the Peruvian North American Cultural Institute, where Echegaray worked as a librarian.

He also owned a several business with a friend who saved the money owed to Echegaray from the store and gave it to his mother to give to him.

While in Binghamton, Echegaray has been taking a crash course in English at the Inland of Cooperative Educational Services. Martinez, the interpreter, is a BOCES employee as well as Stanley's assistant coach.

"This is a beautiful city and the weather is good," Echegaray said. "I take a rest here."

Mateo Echegaray Andrade stands beside his motorcycle.

PHOTO BY HELEN