

Dave and Blanca Gifford

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Serving in Mexico City with:



2850 Kalamazoo SE
Grand Rapids, MI 49560
(616) 224-0700

Grab some popcorn, sit down and enjoy the following previews, which are rated G for a godly, go-get-'em audience!

Coming in December – Us!

We Giffords will be driving home at Christmas time for a six-month home service. We will be reporting to the mission, reporting to the many churches, families and individuals who support us, studying and preparing for our second term in Mexico, and getting some much-needed face time with family and friends back home.

Our mailing address: Please don't send your Christmas cards or any other correspondence to our Mexico address for the rest of this year, or we won't see it until July 4th!

(home service address removed from web version)

Our home service schedule:

- **Dec. 24:** arrival in Michigan and holidays / time with family and friends.
- **January 9-February 15:** deputation in Michigan and possibly elsewhere.
- **Feb. 16-24:** deputation in Florida and a little vacation time there.
- **February 25-June 1:** more deputation in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana and Iowa.
- **June 2-15:** wrapping things up and preparing for departure to Mexico.
- **June 16-23:** deputation trip to Houston.
- **June 24-25:** head to Mexico City.

One thing that will be on our minds while on home service is **beefing up our support level**. We are grateful to all who have given so

generously and faithfully. But a few churches and individuals have not met or have not been able to meet the commitments they made before we came, and so our support is **down to 84%** as of September. Please pray that some current supporters will now be able to support us regularly, and that other new people can join our prayer and support team. Do you know someone who might like to take part in our ministry?

Coming in 2008 (with your help)

Another item for our home service schedule is the sale of our Caravan and **the purchase of a new mission vehicle**. We are raising \$18,000 toward the purchase, and to date the mission has received \$5,029. A big thank you to all who have given. Please pray that we will be able to raise the rest of that amount while we are home.

Previews of Mexico beyond home service

My responsibilities are changing soon. When we return to Mexico I will continue teaching at the seminary but will be scaling back my work with the two local churches here in order to work with the Mexican church at a denominational level. I will be developing its website, developing educational materials to provide online, serving as a link between pastors and between presbyteries, collecting statistics on churches and presbyteries, and most of all preparing conferences and traveling to various locations in Mexico to give them.

I had a taste of what the conferences will be like in October, when I headed to the state of Chiapas and gave a two day conference on "Life

after death". The 18 people who attended were asking many questions and taking copious notes. My visit was well-received by the pastors there, and was a big encouragement to me as well. I can't wait to get started when we return!

Merry Christmas

When we head to Michigan we will be leaving behind many friends, who will celebrate Christmas with elaborate manger scenes, colorful piñatas, and chicken in *poblano* sauce. And we will be coming to other friends who celebrate Christmas with gift-giving, snowmen and roast turkey. Our kids wonder if they will survive the cold that they haven't experienced for 3 years. And Blanca and I are so busy preparing that we barely have time to think about what home service will be like.

We hope you have a joyful and meditative Christmas season, and remember: **The biggest coming attraction of all** is that the Jesus whose birthday we celebrate is coming again. We hope to see you all at the premiere!

Thank you all for your ongoing prayers and financial support. Thanks too, to all who have written, e-mailed, called or visited us during our first term. We are so thankful to God that we have such a wonderful support team. *Blessings to all of you this Christmas.*

In Christ,

Dave, Blanca,
Samuel & Alexandra