

*Dear family, friends and supporters,*

*About a year ago we got a big response to our 'Twitter' style prayer letter. Since there are a number of important things to communicate, we decided to use that format again this time! Some of the items are longer than a real 'tweet', but you get the idea, right?*

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**Blanca** is happy to be back in Mexico City after over a month in Michigan. There she got a second (and third) opinion about Herceptin, and got her first dose. She will get injections here every three weeks for the next year.

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**Dave** is happy to have his wife back, grateful to his parents for taking such good care of her, and glad he is no longer a single parent!

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**Alexandra, Daniel and Dave** enjoyed a quick trip to Michigan to accompany Blanca for her first injection on April 22. It was only five days including travel time, but we were happy we could be an encouragement to Blanca.

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**The Giffords** will be on home service from January-June 2011. We will need a 3-bedroom home to borrow or rent in the Jenison area, and a vehicle to use. *Please let us know of any leads!*

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**The World Missions Mexico field** held its annual spiritual retreat in Tepotzlan, about an hour and a half from here. Dave helped with some of the planning, and he and the kids attended the last day after returning from Michigan. It was good to see the team and to strategize.

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**The Gifford family** will unfortunately need to buy a new mission vehicle in Mexico after home service because Mexico City now severely limits the circulation of foreign vehicles like ours. We are selling the '07 Town and Country while on home service, and raising another \$11,000 to cover the rest of the cost of a new vehicle. You can donate toward the cost of our new vehicle through World Missions (see address above), specifying on the check: Giffords vehicle, project #805-663.

(over)

# June 2010

## **Dave and Blanca Gifford**

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## **Christian Reformed World Missions**

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### **Ministry objectives:**

1. Teach at / develop the Reformed Theological Seminary of Mexico, and develop free Spanish resources on the web
2. Give conferences on various topics across Mexico to Reformed Presbyterian (RPC) churches
3. Network the RPC by maintaining its website and its pastor's directory
4. Assist local churches in Mexico City and host Service and Learning teams from Christian Reformed churches

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We were just 2% short of our minimum support raising goal for the first 10 months of this fiscal year (July – April). Thank you, everyone!

### **Prayer needs:**

- Blanca's Herceptin treatments
- The seminarians
- The churches Dave works with
- Blanca's job as field visa coordinator
- Support-raising for a new vehicle
- Our children, Daniel and Alexandra
- Luis, Carmen and their fiancés

*(Twitter letter 2010, continued)*

**Dave** led an three-day conference on conflict resolution and forgiveness on an island in the state of Tabasco over Easter week. He was eaten alive by ferocious insects while preaching outdoors at night, and has the scars to prove it!

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**Dave and Blanca** are disappointed that the three Service and Learning Teams we had hoped to host this summer did not work out due to logistics north of the border. We are hoping to host one toward the end of summer in 2011, if you are interested!

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**Dave** added some features to our website, [giffmex.org](http://giffmex.org): a feed on our main page that displays new updates, and a complete reorganization of our free Spanish resources.

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**Chaya** is the name Alexandra gave to a baby chick she was given for *día del niño*. She didn't like Dave's idea of calling it Fernando Cheep, after Mexican pastor Fernando Chi.

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**Dave** asks for prayer for the fourth year seminarians: for Efraín, who will graduate in June, for Betzy and Arely who need to complete unfinished work before they are allowed to graduate next year.

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**Daniel** attended a youth retreat in Querétaro in May. Praise the Lord for our children, and please remember to pray for their spiritual growth.

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**Blanca asks** for prayer. Our field is trying to adjust to Mexico's major revision to its visa

policies. Pray for Blanca as she is the visa coordinator for the field.

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**Dave** continues to teach philosophy and New Testament to his seminarians. Fun fact: Did you know you are preaching to demons right now? In Eph. 3.10, Paul says that the very existence of the church proclaims God's victory to the demonic world. By our love we show that God has created a movement that will ultimately overcome the demonic divisions that fracture humanity.

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**Friends and family** have asked us if we are affected by the violence in Mexico. We want to assure you that much of the violence is near the border, which is a full day's drive away, and we have never felt unusually unsafe here, despite living in a big city. But please pray for our colleagues and for the many Mexican Christians along the border!

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**Luis Manuel Be Huchim**, the rector of the seminary where Dave teaches, will marry his longtime sweetheart Ana María on July 17, and Dave will officiate.

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**Carmen Bautista**, a friend of ours from Mexico City, is celebrating two events: her graduation from Calvin Theological Seminary this month, and her wedding to her fiancé Uri on July 24. Dave and Blanca will be attending the wedding and are hosting friends from Cascade Fellowship CRC who will be attending also.

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**You** are simply awesome. Thank you for being part of our team through your prayers, correspondence and/or financial support. Blessings to you!