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**The Giffords' Home  
Service Sound Effects  
Extravaganza!**  
March 2008

Serving in Mexico City with:



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

**Wow!**

We arrived safely to Jenison, Michigan on December 23 after four days of safe travel by car from Mexico City. It was nice to come home at Christmas time, be with Dave's family, see all the colored lights and decorations, and celebrate Christmas at our home church.

Our big 'Christmas gift' was moving into our home. Many volunteers from 12<sup>th</sup> Ave. CRC worked long hours to get their second parsonage ready for us. It is in beautiful shape. Dave's parents, with the help of Love INC and many friends, stocked and furnished the entire house, even with a Christmas tree! And our home church, Ridgewood, collected food items to help us stock our shelves on arrival. We were so moved by the generosity of so many people. We hope every returning missionary is cared for as well as we have been. We saw God's grace in action through his people in a beautiful way.

**Rrrring!**

School bells rang for Daniel and Alexandra shortly after our arrival. They are both back at Jenison Christian School, reunited with old friends and settling in well. They both say that the academic level is lighter here than in their rigorous school in Mexico. Plus they are doing their work in English. So they are enjoying a break of sorts, and getting lots of time in with Grandma and Grandpa, too.

**Rrrring! (part two)**

One thing that has NOT gone 'ring!' much is our phone. That is because until this prayer letter we had no easy way of letting you all know our phone number. You can find it in the upper left corner of this letter. *(Normally we delete private contact information from the online version, but since this is a temporary address, we are leaving it on this time.)*

**Brrr!**

Boy, is Michigan ever cold this year! We have to admit that there were a couple times where we thought of our comfy home in Mexico City. Daniel and Alexandra have had a number of snow days, and Dave's preaching even got cancelled one Sunday!

**Grunt!**

Before long we were knee-deep in work for the mission. Dave was stressed out about our two days of consultation meetings at the mission in mid-January, but discovered that they were a lot less grueling than he thought. We are now officially reappointed for service in Mexico City. Then we began the long preparation of sermons, slideshows, flyers and display table items for our meetings with churches, schools and supporters. Many details needed to be ironed out with churches about our visits with them (See our schedule on the other side).

**Zzzz! Cough! and Huh?**

Health has been a concern for us here: we have been passing coughs and colds back and forth this winter. But that's the least of it - both of us went to a sleep disorder center for consultation. Blanca will be trying various medications until she finds one that works for her. Pray for her as she is pessimistic about the possibility of finding one. Dave is going to be "gaining weight" soon: he needs a hearing aid and a CPAP mask (for sleep apnea).

**Yay!**

We had a nice week in Florida at the end of February. We visited our supporting church in Lake Worth (where Dave did his seminary summer internship in 2002), then we met up with Blanca's mother and splurged and took the kids to Disney World.

(over)

**The remaining stops  
on our 'US tour':**

**March 7:** Hudsonville Christian School

**March 9:** Munster, IN

**March 16:** 1<sup>st</sup> of South Holland IL

**March 28:** Kalamazoo Christian School

**March 30:** Maranatha (Holland, MI) am,  
Hanley Park (Grandville, MI) pm

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**April 6:** Orland Park, IL

**April 9-10:** Missionary Union tour

**April 13:** Cottonwood Heights (Jenison, MI)

**April 20:** Bethel (Oskaloosa, IA)

**April 27:** New Hope Community (Kincheloe,  
MI)

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**May 4:** Ideal Park (Wyoming, MI), am,  
Heritage (Kalamazoo, MI), pm

**May 11:** 1<sup>st</sup> of Allendale, MI

**May 18:** LaGrave Ave. (Grand Rapids, MI)

**May 25:** Emanuel Hispanic (Wyoming, MI),  
am, 12<sup>th</sup> Ave (Jenison, MI), pm

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**June 15:** Hope (Houston, TX)

**June 22:** Peace Community (Houston, TX)

**Ding dong!**

That is the sound effect we haven't heard enough of. We have a goal of visiting about 55 individuals and families that support us, and most of the pastors of our supporting churches. We have started those visits, but colds, trips, our other responsibilities, and Blanca's sleep problems have all made scheduling those visits difficult. We so desperately want to see and thank the wonderful people who have sacrificed to support our ministry. Please pray that we will be able to make all the visits we hope to, or find some adequate alternative. Dave is also hoping to get a little time in preparing classes and conferences. Pray for that, too, please!

**Beep! Beep! Vroom!**

Praise the Lord we now have over \$12,000 raised toward our \$18,000 goal for buying a new mission vehicle. Please pray that we will be able to raise the rest in time to purchase a vehicle while on home service. If not, our next prayer letter may be filled with sound effects like **Clunk!** and **Rattle, rattle, rattle!**

Thank you all for your ongoing prayers and financial support. Thanks too to all who have written, e-mailed, called or visited us. We are so thankful to God that we have such a wonderful support team. Blessings to all of you as you bear God's image.

In Christ,

*Dave, Blanca,  
Daniel & Alexandra*