

WAITING FOR THE GREEN LIGHT

After nearly twenty years in the pastorate, in April of 1990 God finally gave us a **green light** to be missionaries when Dr. Ray Thompson preached in our annual missionary conference. Two months later we were accepted as BIMI missionaries, and in August of 1992 God gave us a **green light** to head for Mexico. Our family of eleven arrived in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico the day before our 22nd anniversary.

We spent the first three years adapting to the culture, learning Spanish, and helping missionary Weldon Jones in the village of Miravalle. In January, 1996 we moved to Guadalajara to work in the northern part of the city. After many hours of planting the gospel seed and discipling the new believers, the new work was alive and growing. Believing that Mexican churches need Mexican pastors, we spent many long hours training Enrique Venegas, as well as helping him and his family. In December of 1999 he became pastor of the Iglesia Bautista de Huentitan, and in 2000 we returned to the USA for a year-long furlough.

After much prayer and searching, God gave us the **green light** in 2001 to move to the Yucatan Peninsula. There in the capital city of Merida, with the help of our son Jeff and his family, we established the Iglesia Bautista Peninsular. Several years later our son-in-law Jim and his family also came to help us along with the Bob Yeater family. Later our church helped Jeff and Bob to start a new church in Cauce, while Jim and Julie began a work in Las Americas. Jeff, Jim, Bob, and I saw the desire and potential in the life of a young man, Luis Valdez. In 2011 he got married, entered the Bible Institute, and left his secular work to become my assistant. For the next four years we worked together in visitation, witnessing, and discipling new believers. He drove the van, cleaned the church, and prepared lessons. He taught the children and invested long hours to finish his studies. All the while he received less pay than he received at his old job. As missionary Bob Dayton told me: if you pay him too much and make it too comfortable, you'll never know if he is doing it for God or for the money. In 2014 we built a new auditorium; in May of 2015 Luis Valdez was ordained as pastor.

After returning to the States for our second year-long furlough, we arrived back in Mexico in 2016. We saw that the church was thriving under Pastor Luis' leadership so we were wondering what our next step would be. When the pastor expressed his desire for our help, we saw another **green light**. Now we're in a supportive role in the church – helping with preaching, evangelism, discipleship; working in a state-run orphanage and our Awana club. The many recent conversions and new families in the church convinced us of the great need to train workers. We are planning to help the pastor until God gives us another **green light**.

Please pray for: New converts (Mario, Moises, Anna, and Isabel); Visitors (Wilbur & Maryel, Silvia, Daysee, Ana, Samuel & Karla, Sony & Celeste, Ibet, and Lina; new Awana contacts.

Thanks for enabling us to **go forward** with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!