



Summer Update Newsletter 2013

Dear Praying Friends,

We deeply appreciate your prayers and financial support. Thank you for allowing God to use you to make it possible to serve Him where God has placed us.

We had an outstanding summer. On June 16 our church celebrated its 31st anniversary. During the last three decades we have seen people saved and baptized every week during all of these years. God has given us an outstanding team of assistant pastors, Sunday School teachers, and bus workers. It seems that God has put just the right person in every area of the ministry.

One of the most delightful experiences of this summer took place on June 23. We were on vacation and helping with the meals at a large family reunion of Brenda's family in Hillsboro, TX. On Sunday morning we had the joy of visiting Bible Baptist Church of Waxahachie, Texas, just 30 miles from where the family reunion was held. This is the church that my father, Dr. L. H. Ashcraft, founded in 1951 and pastored until 1959, when our family moved to Monterrey to start this ministry. There was no one in attendance that morning that was there when my Dad was pastoring the church. However, Bro. Todd Grimes, the pastor, is the son of a couple that my Dad married.

Pastor Grimes has done a great job, leading the church to build a beautiful new building on the edge of town. There was a great spirit in the church. Bro. Grimes gave me a few minutes in the evening service to share some things about our ministry here in Mexico. I reminded them that all that has transpired here during the last 53 years - thousands of people saved and baptized, hundreds of preachers trained, 174 churches established - began in that church. It is a joy to see that the church has stayed true to Bible principles that my dad taught and preached beginning over 60 years ago, especially in a time when so many are abandoning Baptist distinctives and scriptural practices.

We are aware of the financial struggles that many of our supporting churches deal with. We do our best to make sure that your sacrifice does the utmost to further the Gospel.

I had the privilege of preaching in the churches of two of our graduates this summer: one in Cuernavaca, Morelos, and the other in Rio Verde, San Luis Potosí. I also preached in the Fires of Evangelism conference for my dear friend, Bro. Luis Ramos, in San Luis Potosí. It was encouraging to see several of our graduates and fellowship with them during the meeting.

In July, 60 of our teenagers went to youth camp. I preached Monday and Thursday evenings. 22 of our young people surrendered their lives to full-time service. Several of them entered our Bible Institute last week. It was impressive to see so many of the children of couples who grew up in our church surrender their lives during the youth camp.

Forty four years ago August 6, Brenda and I arrived on the field. We are enjoying the ministry more that we ever have. We are looking forward to many more years of service to our Lord. On August 15 Brenda and I celebrated our 47th wedding anniversary. God has been so good to us. One special blessing is that our oldest grandchild,

Daniel, has enrolled in Hyles-Anderson College. We are so proud of him. He has surrendered to the mission field. He was here in our college last semester. It was a delight to have him here. Daniel is the son of our daughter and son-in-law, Tammie and Henry González, who are missionaries in Santa Ana, El Salvador.

Friday night is one of my favorite times of the week. It's Fishermen's Club night. Last Friday 24 men met and went soul-winning. 39 people trusted Christ as Saviour as the result of these men's efforts. I led two precious souls to Christ. What a joy to share the Gospel with people who have never heard that Christ can save them.

Please pray for Brenda's health. She has been very active this summer, in spite of struggling with her physical problems. We are trusting God to continue to give her strength. She is a great example to our church ladies and college girls. She seldom allows her physical problems to make her miss her ladies' soul-winning group which meets in our living room every Friday. Last week the ladies had a party for Brenda for her 66th birthday, then they went out and lead 18 precious souls to Christ.

Yours for souls,

Tommy Ashcraft