

# Mexico

Santa Cruz de Guadalupe,  
Durango, Mexico

August 2008



## The Trip

**Sunday, Aug. 3** Day 1: St. Cloud, FL into Texas. Day 2: Texas into Mexico.

**Tuesday, Aug. 5** Day 3: We arrived at Pastor Salvador's house.

**Monday, Aug. 11** We left for the return trip home.

**Wednesday, Aug. 13** On Day 3 of travel, we arrived home.

## Sta. Cruz de Guadalupe

Bernie, Jean, and Kim drove from St. Cloud, FL to Santa Cruz de Guadalupe. It was a three-day drive. Praise the Lord for a safe travel!

We stayed with Pastor Salvador Martinez, his wife Carmen, and their daughter Rebeca. Pastor Pedro Ledezma came from California with five of his children and two members of their youth group.

Our main purposes for this trip were vacation Bible school and visiting with the people. We also showed evangelistic films.



The mountainous state of Durango has been the backdrop of several Hollywood films. The area is also famous for its scorpions.



# Vacation Bible School

In Santa Cruz de Guadalupe and nearby San Francisco Murguía

We brought down materials for the VBS programs in Santa Cruz and four other local churches.

Pastor Pedro (Peter) Ledezma arrived from California with his team of youth to help out with the VBS in Santa Cruz and in Murguía.

We had VBS from Thursday to

Sunday, with the closing ceremony in Murguía on Sunday and in Santa Cruz on Monday.

In Santa Cruz de Guadalupe, we averaged 30-40 students each day.

One day, the young men from California acted out the story of Paul and Silas.

To make VBS a success, it is a team effort -- to tell the stories, help students with the lessons, plan games, and prepare snacks.

**PHOTOS:** (left to right) children coloring their memory verses; the group of children; a girl placing the armor on the soldier; Rebeca helping a boy in the balloon game.

## VBS Closing Ceremony

In Mexico, VBS concludes with a closing ceremony where each student is presented with a certificate and those who learned their memory verses can be specially recognized.

The highlight of the ceremony, however, is the *piñata*. Taking turns, the children whack at it

until it bursts open. The *piñata* is raised and lowered to make the game last longer. Adults toss candy into the crowd so all get treats.

**PHOTOS:** a boy receiving his certificate and congrats; a young girl hitting the *piñata*; two boys with their treats.





### The Martinez Family

Pastor Salvador and his wife Carmen are gracious hosts. Rebeca, the youngest of four daughters, lives at home.

Salvador is fond of the *chiles* that he grows. In the photo, Carmen is skinning the roasted *chiles* to make a spicy salsa, a tasty complement to her homemade tortillas.



### The Ledezma Team

Peter drove from California with five of his children – Bernice, Anahi, Selene, Marcos, and Wendy – and two members of their youth group – Saúl and Andrés.

Peter is responsible for the pastors and churches affiliated with Y.E.S. in the southern California and Mexico region.



### In Vicente Guerrero

Vicente Guerrero is a nearby city where we purchase groceries, hardware supplies, and souvenirs.

The top photo shows Kim selecting a papaya from a stand in the marketplace. The bottom photo of Bernie and Jean looks toward the center of town. The dome of the cathedral is in the background.

