Dear Friend,

The time to be thankful and to rejoice is every day, in every thing! We are sure, as you approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, that you have many reasons to be thankful and to rejoice. We certainly do at MMM! What a wonderful God we serve, Who not only calls us to receive His love but to be the conduit of His love to the world.

It has been a while since we have passed on to you the happenings in the Sierra Tarahumara, though it has not been for lack of happenings! The following pages give you some highlights of the summer and early fall. We are pushing forward in every area, and hungrier than ever for God to move among the Tarahumara Indians.

The time to reach the Tarahumara Indians is now! The following pages speak of their need for things we take for granted - like clean water and accessible medical care. Their problem of failing crops and the hunger, disease and death that may claim lives this next year. These things are nothing new. The Tarahumara people have faced them for centuries, and life is not going to magically become easy in the Sierra.

The difference, in this moment, is that there is an army of believers present to love them in their suffering. To not just give and heal and help, but to shine the light of the gospel in word and deed. Never in the history of the Tarahumara people have they had such an opportunity to hear of the love of Christ and to see it put into action in their behalf.

You are part of the army! Your prayers and financial support are what fuel every action taken to love and serve the Tarahumara people. You are vital to the continuation of the hospital and community programs, and to the growth of each and every ministry.

You are invited to give this holiday season to make a tangible difference for Tarahumara families. The enclosed response card gives specific giving options such as $25 to treat a malnourished child or $100 to send a medical team to a village. You may wish to give a different amount or designate it to general operations or to a specific project. We just hope that your giving will increase your own joy and thankfulness as it will ours!

Sincerely,

The MMM Team
October at 7200 feet in the Sierras reminds you that summer is definitely over, with decreasing thunder-heads that are created by the hot summer afternoons and nighttime temperatures dropping into the 40’s. Sadly, the disappearance of the thunderstorms also means an absence of any significant rains. Just as Texas has suffered through a drought year, we have not had normal precipitation either.

Though spotty areas of the canyon rims have had adequate moisture, the depths of the canyons, with their blistering summer heat, have suffered a complete loss of their crops. As a result, the looming possibility of severe malnutrition in the next year again rears its head, especially for the infants who will be fighting with their two and three year old siblings for breast milk.

Plans have been drawn up for the pending expansion of the emergency room and pediatric ward, and the foundation was completed. The extra capacity in both will probably be critical in handling the influx of sick and malnourished infants this winter.

After a violent spring in our vicinity, we thankfully have not been touched by the cartel violence frequenting other parts of the country. Word has it that the marijuana crops, grown in the canyons as well, have also suffered from the drought conditions. We pray that this fact does not portend an increase in the level of petty crime and kidnapping of their fellow Hispanics for ransom, that is often the fallback occupation of these small-time players in the drug trade.

The Community Health Evangelism projects in three traditional villages are proceeding ahead. The weekly medical clinics in Pamatchi and Chikue’ are being expanded to a more frequent schedule. The foundation and superstructure for a dormitory in Chikue’, a CHE project with the village, was completed several months ago. The critical limiting factor for that much needed facility for the Tara children now sleeping on the floor of the school room was resolved when God saw fit to provide water, as the 400 foot dry hole was deepened to 500 feet by the Missions’ water drilling operation.

The CHE midwife program is now fully staffed with two new midwives, who will also play an integral part in the new Birthing Center renovation that will follow the ER/pediatric expansion.

The hospital staff was greatly saddened in August with the passing of Manuel. Manuel was a twenty year Tarahumara youth injured through violence in the drug trade that became a member of our hospital family during the eighteen months he was with us here at Hospital Mision Tarahumara. . . Your continued prayers for Mexico Medical Missions will ensure that many more of the sad stories of the Tarahumara have such happy endings.

An Excerpt from “In Memory of Manuel”
by Dr. Bruce Daugherty

Jesus told the parable of the ninety-nine safe sheep left by the shepherd to search for the one lost lamb. We believe we know the eternal state of Manuel’s soul, but he certainly was a lost sheep at one point in the whole experience. . . Talk to anyone of the staff that cared for Manuel and not one considers that their time or resources could have been better spent. Manuel gave as much back to all as he received. . . As Paul said in Galatians 5:14 “For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF”. Hospital Mision Tarahumara found that to be so easy with Manuel and, through your prayers and support, will continue with all his fellow Tarahumaras who come through the doors.
Gratefully the prolonged dry spring was broken over the last month (July), as the summer rains have begun. The delayed sprouting of the corn has been rapidly reversed as the plants in the fields of the Tarahumara burst out of the softened ground and now stand two feet tall. Obviously, there is still a long way to go before they are assured of an adequate crop, but each journey begins with one step. Also, rising up out of the ground is the new foundation for the modest enlargement of the pediatric ward and the emergency room. The next several months are generally the critical time of the year for malnourished children as the stores from last year’s harvest run out. The enlargement of the pediatric ward will allow for more adequate room for each child’s family member who often have only a hard wooden chair beside the crib to call their home away from home. The emergency room upgrade will provide better capabilities for handling the periodic victims of violence that need high quality trauma care. And quickly following the completion of these additions, the addition of the new modern birthing center will relieve the present overusage of the emergency room as our delivery room. Our midwifery program is moving ahead with this month’s arrival of Jean Dority and her husband Mark and the return of Michelle Hopkins in September following her certification in midwifery. In just one week Andrew Bornman arrives with his family to resume his agricultural mission in an effort to improve the primitive, narrowly focused Tarahumara agriculture. The medical clinic in Pamachi on the edge of the great Urique canyon will begin fulltime operation in September with the addition of Antonio, a newly graduated LVN. The water well drilled in Santa Rita near the Batopilas canyon was recently outfitted with a hand pump just as the water holes dried up, providing life-saving water for the 25 families of this completely traditional Tarahumara village (pictured above). Great progress is anticipated in the face of great need. Your continued thoughts and prayers are vital to our work.

~ From Volunteer Dr. Bruce Daugherty, July 18