

mercy

Rivera Ministries

Serving God through mercy and evangelism

December 2009

www.riveraministries.org



RIVERA
MINISTRIES

High in the Sierra Mountains of interior Mexico, Edwin and Shelley Rivera are bringing hope and life to women and children whose mortality rate is one of the highest in the world.

It is in this lush but unforgiving land that Tarahumara Indian women endure pregnancy without any health care or prenatal education, then give birth alone, and frequently die in the process.

Their children fare just as poorly: 50 percent of all Tarahumara children perish by age 5.

God has called Edwin and Shelley to minister to the people of the beautiful but seemingly prehistoric Copper Canyon. He has made clear their goal: to bring health and hope – both in this life and eternally – to His children, the Tarahumara.



The Rivera family, December 2009. Edwin, Abby, Shelley, Evelyn, and Joy

Merry Christmas And Happy 2010!

Dear family and friends,

Greetings, all our love and God's richest blessings to you this Christmas season and as another New Year begins. All continues to be well here for us, and we pray it's the same for all of you.

This will be our 4th Christmas here in Samachique and we look forward to spending this special holiday with those that will remain here on duty through the season. It is always a highlight of the year for us to stay home, away from the world's holiday madness, while reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas!

Colorado "quick" trip:

This past October we went to Colorado for a "quick" trip to get our driver's licenses-vehicle registration renewed. As we were just a few hours from Loveland,

continued on next page

continued from page 1

weather permitted us to make a surprise visit! It was way too short and we did not get to see everyone we wanted to, but it was a blessing to be able to worship at our home church and see some of our friends in the area.

'Twas quick but...

It was a quick trip to CO, however, we were able to accomplish the things we really needed to. While we were in Glenwood we also (through some friends) were donated a 1989 Chevy Suburban that had 68,000 original miles and is in great condition. We are seeing that as an opportunity to be a blessing to someone else...so we have 2 missionary couples in mind for it. Thank you Brother Neely for being the connecting point in getting this blessing down to Mexico. We had some unforeseen expenses with the added vehicle, and some repairs in making it "Mexico" road worthy but we received some unexpected one time gifts that helped with some of those extra expenses, registration, insurance, etc.

We returned from CO with a



Happy Birthday, Edwin!



Group photo with Jean and Mark Dhority with neighbor and friend Aaron Murphy (back in 2007)

midwife friend of ours, Jean Dhority. Jean and her husband Mark had come here in 2007 and helped finish the inside of the birth center to make it operational. Well, after many years of praying about going to the mission field, they are seeking God about joining the work here on a fulltime basis. There are lots of requests from people that want to come for a short term, however, in order to get this midwifery program up and running full-force we need fulltime people to do it. Yes, we have Miriam still on board at the birth center, but family responsibilities keep both Shelley & Miriam from going to villages to train more women and running this ministry to its full potential.



Jean and Mark Dhority

Shelley's fully recovered...

As some of you might recall Shelley had a hernia repair surgery back in September. We sent an email about it. If you didn't get the email, maybe it's because we don't have one on file for you. Please send us your email address if you'd like to get our emails. Though it was not an emergency, had she not gotten it repaired, it would at one point or another become an emergency. We thank our visiting friend, Dr Bruce Daugherty and Dr Mike Berkeley for a

successful surgery. Shelley was able to have her procedure using just local anesthesia (it was her request), and walked home about 2 hours later.

So what's ahead?

We feel that God is putting a team together to further the ministry of the birth-training center. Besides Jean, we will have the young midwife student from Alabama, Michelle Hopkins, return in early 2010 with a 1 year commitment. Also another young lady, a midwifery graduate from Newlife International School of Midwifery in the Philippines (www.midwifeschool.org), will visit us in January to check out the midwife ministry here. Please keep Stephanie Williams in your prayers as she seeks God and His direction, for her. There is yet another couple that had planned to visit in January, but the timing is not working for them to come at this time. Also Jean has some friends that are praying about their possible involvement in this ministry. Please pray with us that God opens or closes doors, and sends us the right people according to His perfect will and perfect time.

SO GOD IS PROVIDING PEOPLE

So God is providing people, now we need housing for them! We currently have a one bedroom cabin, where we've hosted single midwife students...but that's it. We are totally maxed out as far as lodging goes here at the hospital, so we are left with the "no lodging" situation for people coming to join the ministry. The only option we see at this time is to build staff housing for the midwife program.

We have the people who have offered to come and build what ever we need, now we need to raise the funds to build it.

Would you pray and see if God would have you be a part of the midwife staff housing project? We estimate this project to be about \$20,000.00. What ever you can do to help us is greatly appreciated.

Please know that donations are tax deductible when made payable to Mexico Medical Missions. In order for contributions to be eligible for this year, they must be received by Dec 31.

If you want to find out more about this please contact us at rivasemail@gmail.com! See newsletter insert for more information.

Blessings to you all...

May the year 2010 be filled with God's very best to each of you, your family and loved ones!

**All our love,
Edwin, Shelley, Joy, Abby & Evelyn.**



Shelley "during" her hernia surgery!



Joy is a teenager now!

*Exciting ministry news from
the Riveras in Samachique, Mexico*

Prayer Requests and Needs...

Would you please keep us in your prayers as we seek God for His wisdom and direction for 2010?

There is so much more that we want to accomplish (ministry wise) but the lack of full time staff has limited us in growing the midwife program as widely and quickly as we would like to.

- Please pray for the team that the Lord is continuing to build, it is very exciting to us.
- We also need your prayers for the financial support needed to keep this ministry going.
- Please pray for our needed staff housing. Your financial partnership in this project is a blessing to many.

We know that the economy has been really bad and so many people have been affected by it. We are so thankful for your support and prayers. We know that many of you have been so generous with your sacrificial giving to the ministry here. Thank you so much!

God is our provider and we trust in him to provide every need for you as well as our ministry here to the Tarahumara Indians.

– **The Riveras**

Tax deductible donations can be sent to Mexico Medical Missions. Mail to: Mexico Medical Missions, 4001 C.R. 114 Glenwood Springs, CO 81601