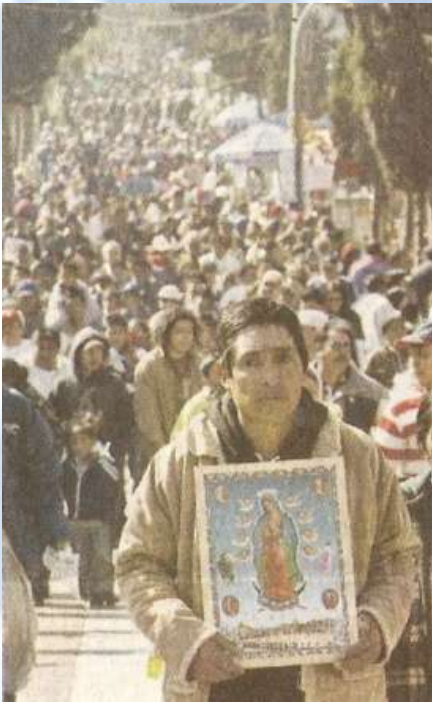


## MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM JOSIAH, CRYSTAL & ABIGAIL



For us, few pictures could better represent the stark contrast between the peace that Christ's birth should mean, and the bondage Mexico has made it. Some beginning their pilgrimage days in advance, five million walked & crawled to the Basilica in Mexico City on Dec.12, the 477<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the "virgin's appearing". Their sacrifice, as Paul states, has an appearance of wisdom, as it displays their devotion, but has no value in fighting the enemy within (Col 2:23). While 5 million seems like a lot, that so few arrived reveals the reality that Mexico is changing their god. Mexico City is now dominated by the love of money. However, whether materialism or Mary worship, Mexico's greatest god still lies within: self.

*May this Christmas bring a renewed sense of the selflessness it was meant to reflect, along with the eternal peace it was meant to bring.*

We've decided to stay in Mexico this Christmas. December is usually the busiest month for ministry, so we didn't want to miss all the opportunities. It has been a wonderful time to speak at Christmas dinners/parties and get to the know people at a more personal level. December is also the hardest season of the year for many. A few unexpected deaths coupled with the tough economic strain makes this year no exception. We are joyful to be able to do what little we can to use this Christmas to remind people of the hope we have in Christ.



Abby's first Christmas is more fun than we ever could've imagined... as she crawls around, discovering the world, I'm sure if her actions could be translated, she'd be saying, "if only they'd let me eat that delicious shiny green thing in the living room!" In all seriousness, Christ's birth has never seemed so precious. Having a living illustration of the helpless dependence that Christ voluntarily took upon Himself for us drooling on our floor makes us just that much more thankful.

*May we give Him the glory due His name. Merry Christmas!*

