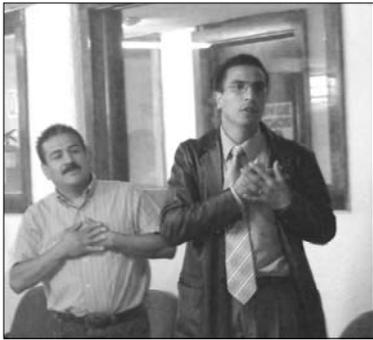




lesson 2

by Dan Cammack

See color photos
on separate sheet.



Cristobal Tellez (right)



Elizabeth teaching

PART WAY THROUGH the years of visiting Mexico City to help train teachers, I started extending my stays so I could visit the city of Aguascalientes in central Mexico. Ernesto would take me to the bus terminal early in the morning and I would buy a ticket to Aguascalientes. The bus traveled north for six hours, reaching Aguascalientes in the afternoon.

Aguascalientes is not nearly as big as Mexico City, but it still has about a million people. I was there to visit Friends missionaries who had recently arrived to start Friends churches in that city. Evangelical Friends Mission had asked me to be their coach, so I wanted to get better acquainted with them as well as see the city of Aguascalientes for myself.

There were no Friends churches when the missionaries moved to Aguascalientes. They didn't know a single person. They started their work from scratch. Over the next few years they worked hard to make friends and tell them about Jesus Christ. Now, six years later, there is a Friends church in a section of the city called Pocitos, and a Bible study in another section of the city called Villas.

When you start a new church one of the things you want to do as soon as you can is start training the people in that church to do everything that's needed, like preaching, teaching Sunday school, visiting people who don't know Jesus, and so on. That's exactly what our missionaries have been doing, and just last year they asked the teachers in Mexico City to help them with this training. So, starting in December of last year, Ernesto, Elizabeth, and a teacher named Cristobal Tellez, have been traveling to Aguascalientes once a month to teach the leaders there the same courses that they studied with teachers like me a few years earlier.

The EFM missionaries who are currently in Aguascalientes are Andrea Byrne and my parents, Ed and Marie Cammack. This is how they describe the classes that are going on right now with the folks from Mexico City:

“The Christians in the Aguascalientes Friends Church have been on a spiritual journey in their relationship with Jesus, some for five years and others for a year. They have been experiencing a life transformed by Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Their goal now is to experience spiritual growth through the study and application of God's Word in their lives. They are inspired by Paul's admonition in 2 Timothy 3:16, 'All scripture is inspired by God to teach us what is true---to teach us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip people to do every good work.' (NLT)

“During the Mexico Yearly Meeting sessions in September of 2011, The Friends Theological Institute was introduced to those of us attending from Aguascalientes Friends. Jaime and Lupita were ready to start classes immediately. Elizabeth, director of the Institute, and her husband, Ernesto, pastor of the Mexico City Friends Church and Institute teacher, said they would travel to Aguascalientes every third weekend of the month to teach the classes. Their vision is that of Paul's instruction to Timothy, 'Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others' (NLT). That became a reality in the month of December. There are now six students studying Christian Discipline, Old Testament History, and Homiletics (how to preach). They now find themselves searching the scriptures daily to do their homework. These students are finding it a challenge to carry out their responsibilities to do their assignments, to have daily devotions, and get their brains back into the mode of studying and learning. Already the students are experiencing a more intimate relationship with Jesus and a desire to share with family and friends about their relationship with Jesus”