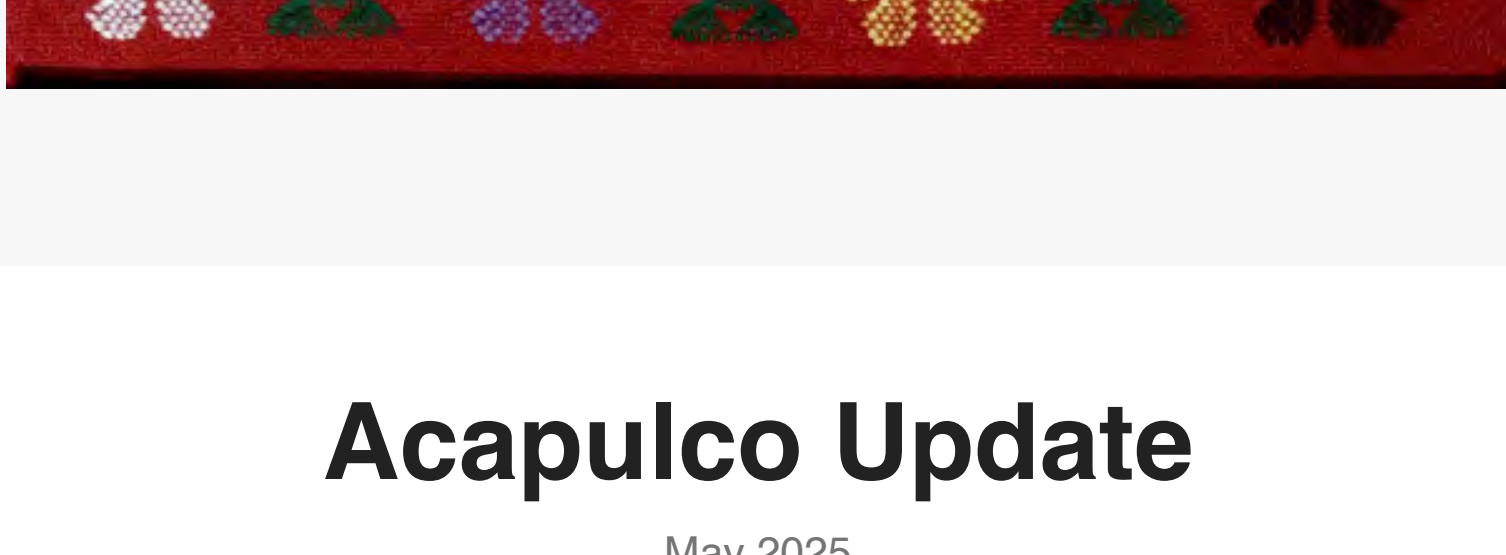




Acapulco Update

May 2025

Dear praying friends,

Greetings from sunny and hot Acapulco. After a winter that seemed actually more pleasantly cool than usual, we are suddenly feeling the heat. At the moment it is 88F, feels like 97, and should go up a few more degrees, according to my computer weather report! It makes me very glad to be working in an office with air conditioning right now.

An elderly gentleman that Elvira and I meet and greet frequently on our early morning walks commented recently, "You all don't walk, you trot!" Since returning to Acapulco in January, the pace of life and ministry seems to be a continual trot, too. I overextended myself somewhat with 4 seminary classes and a Bible study in my department to prepare for and teach every week. Well, this month I have one less class to teach, but since I had to be there to open and set up the classroom, I decided to join our third-year students in an Introduction to Greek class. I thought it would be great to review what I studied 45 years ago, but actually, it is a case of relearning all that I have forgotten (which is all that I learned)!



Maranatha Theological Seminary is formally becoming an entity of the presbytery - although I don't know exactly what that is going to look like. It is a necessary step, so that they will recognize our students who want to be ordained, without adding extra hoops for them to jump through. Supposedly I will still be doing everything I am doing, but with a lot more oversight and control on their part. We are in the midst of talks to try to figure out how this is going to go forward, and I would appreciate your prayers that I would be wise and humble, and that all decisions would be for the good of the seminary.

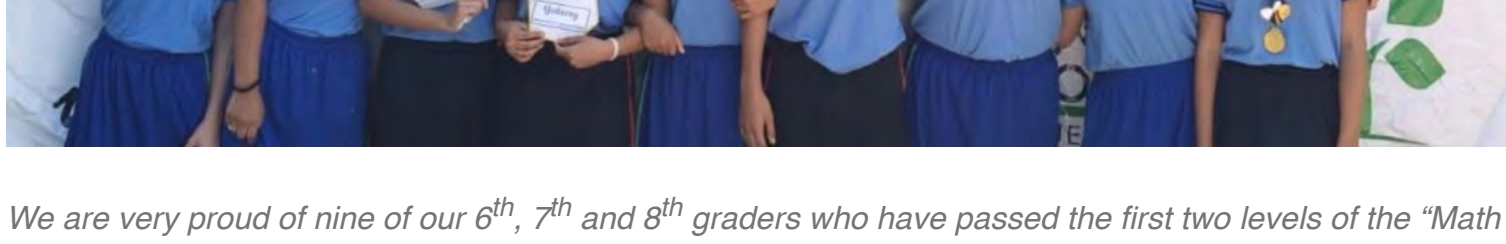
The Bible study I have been trying to nurse along in my house has hit a few bumps, especially with 3 weeks of different holidays. Sometimes I have one student, or maybe 6 or 7. The last two weeks, the only ones who came were Christians and we didn't do the study, which is planned more for the non-Christians. They like it and are very participative when they come, but all sorts of things seem to get in the way of actually getting here - work, sickness, forgetfulness, etc.



New Horizon: Sandra Durazo (the principal) and I did a conference about New Horizon over zoom last week for a group of Presbyterian teachers, in a series designed to encourage people to start Christian schools all over Mexico. I found it very exhausting, not least because when I am talking to strangers in Spanish, I suddenly get very unsure of myself and end up making more mistakes than I normally would. However, it went well and Sandra's mom, Angeles, who was a founding member and still teaches there, spoke at the end with a very inspiring testimony about what NH has meant in her life and the lives of the students and a tearful appeal encouraging them to be willing to follow the Lord's lead and start more schools. So, this is a praise (and also a praise that it is over!).

The school is having a hard time right now financially. Unplanned for events, like the government raising the minimum wage two times in this school year, mean that we are spending more than we are receiving. We didn't feel like we could raise tuition in the middle of this year. Even with charging more next year, we will still need more students in order to stay afloat.

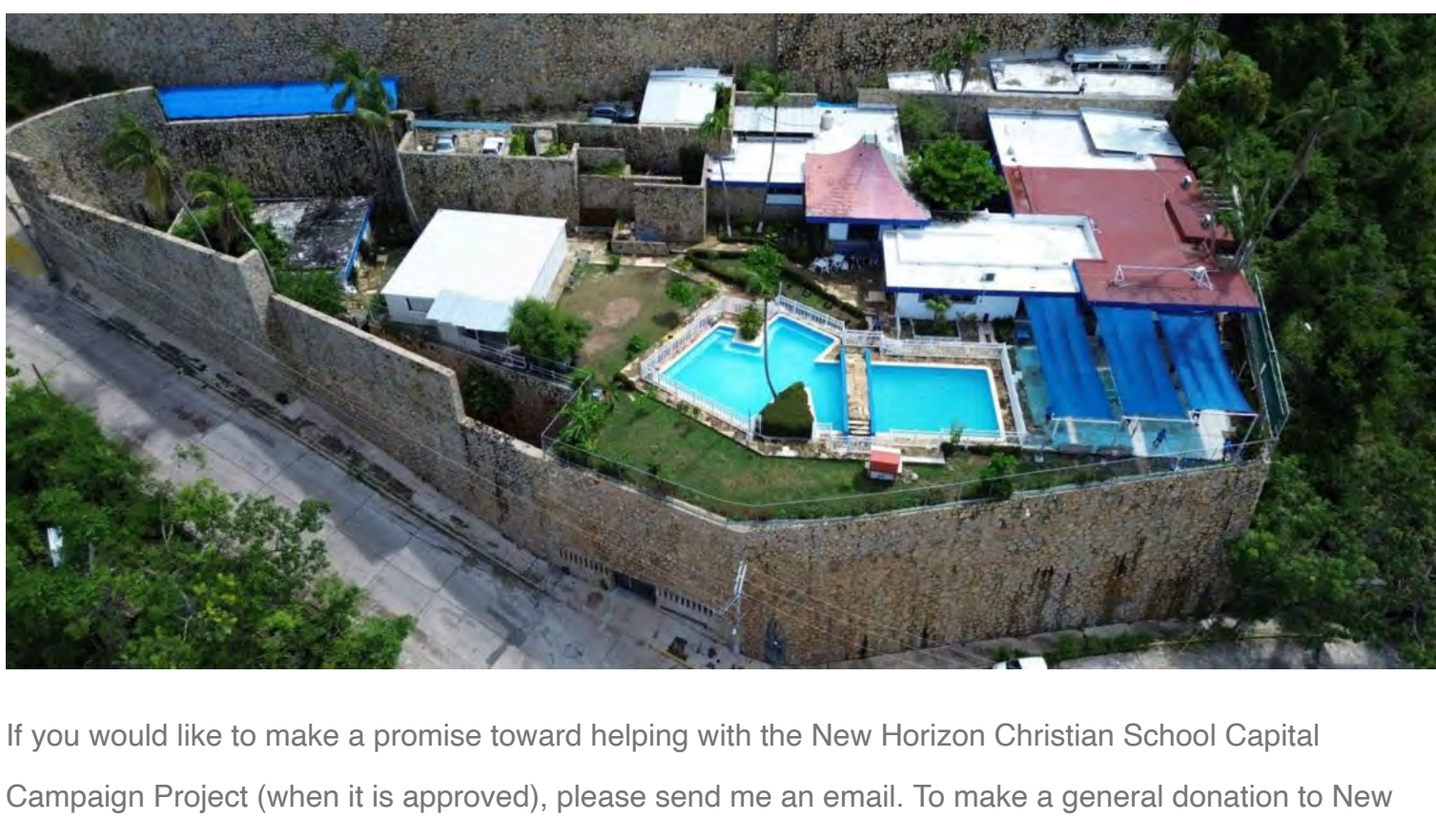
We are going to add 10th grade next year - and will be using Jesus of Nazareth Church's facilities for 3 classes of junior high and 1 of high school. The idea is that we will be able to build something on our own land by the end of those 2 years, but we still haven't had the Capital Campaign for buying the property approved, although we have half the price promised. The first half came pretty easily, but things have stalled since then. It has been very hard for me to do much with promoting it, now that I am back in Acapulco. The everyday work here fills up all my time.



We are very proud of nine of our 6th, 7th and 8th graders who have passed the first two levels of the "Math Olympics" and are moving up to the regional. Last month we had a school-wide English Spelling Bee and Group Poetry contest and a few other scholarly activities. They also had a great deal of fun on Children's Day, a big deal here (junior high kids get their celebration of Student's Day later this month).



- A list of prayer needs
- For New Horizon – that money will come in to meet our needs for the rest of this school year and we will get many new students for next year (moving junior high and high school to Jesus of Nazareth church will give us extra space for lots more).
 - A group of teenagers from Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church is coming in June to work with Casa Hogar children's home, and in the mornings will be doing an "English camp" with our primary and junior high kids. Pray for all the details and that it will be a great experience for all.
 - For the Capital Campaign to buy the property for New Horizon to be approved by MTW, and \$350,000 more to be promised, or given. That I would know what steps to take next as far as my part goes, and have the time and energy to take them.
 - For the changes taking place in the seminary structure, that they would be a blessing and further the work, especially of preparing men for pastoral ministry.
 - For my neighbors to be more consistent in attending the Bible study, and to have a true understanding of and embrace Jesus Christ and his salvation.



If you would like to make a promise toward helping with the New Horizon Christian School Capital Campaign Project (when it is approved), please send me an email. To make a general donation to New Horizon now, you can send a check to the address below, or donate online at MTW.org. The project name is New Horizon Christian School, #93769.

Mission to the World
P.O. Box 744165
Atlanta, GA 30374-4165

Many, many thanks for your prayers and support.
Blessings, Ellen

My mailing address is:

barnettm@prodigy.net.mx

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Mission to the World - Apartado C-38 - Acapulco, Gro 39810 - Mexico

