

# SERFAM NEWS

Nov-Dec  
2004

## GROWING PAINS!

### Keeping ahead of the Pace

This year has been one of tremendous growth in our area of the city. Since the beginning of the year, the Public Works Department has been widening the Perimeter road around the city and making improvements to accommodate the projected growth to the north between Mérida and the Port of Progreso. As we mentioned in an Update earlier this year, the school is right in the middle of the growth path of the city and, in the last month or so, we are beginning to feel the effects.

Just to remind you... In March, we began to hear rumors that the government had approved the financing for a housing development of 5000 houses immediately in front of the school. When we investigated further, we learned that the contractor was planning to initiate this new project by the end of this year. Although we confirmed these reports through several sources, we were pretty skeptical—not so much regarding the projected growth—with regard to the timetable. It turns out however that the rumors and reports were true, the contractor began clearing the land and the construction

of the first model homes around the 1st of December. We're not sure when the first families will be able to take possession, but we feel fairly certain that we'll have new neighbors by the time the summer rolls around.



A view of the new highway construction going on in front of the school. The wall (recently knocked down) on the left, fronts the new neighborhood.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vision 21	2
PEF Ministry Team	3
Project Update	4

# SERFAM

A.C.

Mérida, Yucatán



For those of you who have been here, this is a picture of the land that is across the street from our property. Model homes are going in now.

An additional feature of this project is the widening of the highway that runs in front of the school. This project began about mid-November and will probably continue for the next several months.

Although all the construction has created a traffic nightmare, has been incredibly noisy and has left all of us eating lots of dust, we're excited to see the growth of our neighborhood and anticipate the opportunities this will afford for the school to grow.

## CENTRO EDUCATIVO "BLAS PASCAL" VISION 21—Planning for the Future

As you can see from the article on Page 1, the city of Mérida is experiencing rapid growth. In order to keep pace, we decided to form a leadership team dedicated to planning for the future academic and economic development of CEBP. In October of this year, this group met for the first time in order to talk about the importance of CEBP and about the direction it should take for the future.

When we began the school, we decided that our initial efforts would be directed toward the establishment of secondary education (Jr. & Sr. High) because of three key factors:

1. We perceived that there was a market for secondary education within the Christian community.
2. The leadership the Lord had provided was best equipped to establish a school offering this level of education.
3. A focus on secondary education would lead us most naturally into higher levels of education.

We are now in our fourth year as an institution and have been able to achieve the following results:

1. The development of a basic teaching model that is used in all subjects and levels of instruction (this model includes the use of Thinking Maps as an educational tool).
2. The development of a supervised continuing education program for our active teachers and an introductory program for new teachers.
3. The development of a certification program offered as a Continued Education Certificate for teachers in CEBP and available to other schools (currently being offered to the staff of the San Pablo Seminary).
4. Local funding amounting to approximately 80% of the Operations Expenses of the school and projected to be between 90-100% in the 2005-06 school cycle.

In the October meeting, it was decided that CEBP should seek to provide educational services at both the elementary and university levels and that we establish committees to work on the formulation of a plan for the academic growth and to develop strategies for improving our funding from local sources. We adjourned and met again in November in order to form our committees and name the respective chairmen.

Academically, we are working to adapt our classroom model to elementary level instruction and on a continuing education type course that will allow us to provide training for our prospective teachers. Our hope is to begin offering bilingual (Spanish & English) elementary education in the 2006-07 school cycle. In order to do this we will need to have our training program up and running, identify and hire a Director for the elementary school (no later than January, 2006) and expand our current facilities (either at our current or another location). Our economic committee is organizing fundraising activities and working on a plan to promote the project within the evangelical community. We are currently in the process of soliciting the donation of a piece of land from the Governor.

It is our hope that some of the leaders from this group will eventually form a Board of Directors for the oversight and future direction of CEBP. It has been encouraging to see how the Lord continues to provide the talent, energy and funding necessary for this project to grow and fulfill his purposes here.



**VISION 21 GROUP**

L/R—Moisés Zapata (Teacher, San Pablo Seminary), Bryce King, Silvia Uc, Félix Ramírez (Dean, CEBP), Lupita Béjar (Director, CEBP), Finny Quiñones, Manuel Morales (Asst. Dean, CEBP), Byron Morris (Teacher, CEBP) & Marcos Ramírez (Academic Coordinator, CEBP). Not pictured—Noreen King, Jesús Glory (Pastor, Shalom Pres. Church) & Wilbur Madera (Rector, San Pablo Seminary).

## PEF MINISTRY TEAM

### Noah Roberts

In the last edition we ran out of space before we had the opportunity to introduce you to our newest PEF Team member here in Mérida. A couple of years ago, Noah spent several months here living with Tim and Byron, helping out a bit with some of our youth leaders at Shalom Church and getting to know a bunch of our College and Career crowd.

After returning home (in Augusta, GA), Noah decided to enroll in Augusta College to finish his degree... majoring in Psychology and minoring in Spanish. During this time, Noah expressed an interest in returning to Mérida to help out in any way he could... his biggest concern was how he could be useful in the ministry here.

When he was here before we had observed that Noah had been able to develop relationships with quite a few of the leaders in Shalom and that his abilities as a musician had endeared him to our praise and worship team. As we discussed possible minis-



try options, we felt strongly that Noah could be used to help develop the music ministry at Shalom... this was confirmed to us as we began discussing the possibility of his return with the Shalom leadership.

Without going into a lot of detail, the subject of music as a ministry in the church has been an area that we have long desired to see addressed. Although Noah has had limited “formal” musical training, he has an extremely diverse musical background and is able to draw upon a wide variety of experience in “ecclesiastical” settings as he works with our musicians in Shalom. Since his arrival in early October, Noah has demonstrated a willingness to serve in any way the Lord might see fit to use him. He was immediately reintegrated into the praise and worship team for our Sunday morning and evening services, is participating in the musical group that supports our Saturday afternoon children’s ministry and is offering drum (and English) classes to a number of members of our congregation. We are also discussing possible opportunities that might exist for him to become involved at CEBP and the San Pablo Seminary.

If you are interested in supporting Noah or would like to do something similar, please contact us... see “Project Update” on Page 4 for more information. Happy New Year!

**A SPECIAL THANKS TO:**

**CEBP Foundation Group**

The Jolly Evangelistic Foundation  
Southeastern Equipment Company  
Sunbelt Nissan  
First Pres. Church, Dothan AL  
Wynndale Pres. Church, Terry MS  
Dr. & Mr. Ken Byrd  
Dr. William K. Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Knott  
Mr. & Mrs. Ernie Oswald  
Dr. & Mrs. Weems Pennington  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Smith

**Student Scholarships  
2004-05**

Rev. & Mrs. David Hoffman  
Dr. & Mrs. Ricardo Santana  
Shalom Pres. Church

**Project Development  
2004-2005**

Evangelical Pres. Church, Annapolis MD  
Pinewoods Pres. Church, Cantonment, FL  
Second Pres. Church, Memphis TN  
Trinity Pres. Church, Charlottesville VA  
Woodland Pres. Church, Hattiesburg MS

**In Our Next Issue  
(Tentatively)**

**CEBP Update  
PEF Ministry Update  
Vision Group Report  
Other Stuff**

**PRESBYTERIAN EVANGELISTIC FELLOWSHIP**

PEF, the Presbyterian Evangelistic Fellowship, is a nonprofit faith mission whose purpose is to practice, train and equip God's people to do Biblical Evangelism, anywhere, anytime with anyone. The PEF Center in Bristol, VA houses our administrative team. The US team is spread across many states, and the International team labors in twenty-five nations and two regions beyond our domestic borders. For more information about PEF Ministries or short-term ministry opportunities, please call the PEF office at (800) 225-5733 and speak to Joe Blake.



**SERFAM, A.C.**

SERFAM, A.C., is a satellite ministry of PEF in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico and is directed by Bryce King - General Director, Manuel Glory - Treasurer, and Wilbur Madera - Secretary. As a non-profit organization, SERFAM, A.C. offers family services through the development of educational, recreational and community projects. Our primary goals are to evangelize, promote biblical values and minister to family and community needs while at the same time providing leadership training for Mexican men and women.

**PROJECT UPDATE  
How You Can Help**

Although it's doubtful that this edition will arrive on time, we pray that the holiday season has been restful and full of blessing for you and your family.

As you can see from this edition, we are facing a number of challenges as the school continues to grow. The formation of the Vision 21 Leadership Group has allowed us to facilitate this growth under the guidance of Mexican leadership and has enabled Noreen & I to be more involved in the "Development" aspects of the Project. This means that we will be traveling in the US quite a bit in order to broaden our human resources and our funding base.

If you would like us to visit with you to or your church, help support this project financially, are interested in organizing a missions trip, would like to become involved personally or would simply like to visit Mérida to learn more about how you can be involved, please contact us directly at:

**brycesking@yahoo.com**  
or  
**pefmerida@yahoo.com**  
Tel. 011 52 (999) 946-6436

**Hey! Check out our Updated Website...**

**[www.geocities.com/pefmerida](http://www.geocities.com/pefmerida)**