


# TEXICO UPDATE

January 7, 2011




## Different Ways of Sharing the Gospel

 **Lubbock, Texas:** Praise be to God, I just concluded my last meeting of the year in Lubbock, Texas! It was a wonderful campaign! We opened with a little over 100 adult visitors and closed with 22 new members, with another 28 decisions for baptism in the immediate future. Illness and travel placed some behind the rest, but they are highly motivated to catch up with what they missed and to join our church as soon as they are able. One of these individuals gave an offering of \$1,000 at the close of one of the sermons. Others each gave \$100 offerings on various nights.

Also, worthy of mention is Susan from Iowa who was urged by her mother, Helen, a resident here in Lubbock, to travel down to Lubbock to attend the six week seminar with her. Susan did and was here for the entire series. Her husband kept asking her when was she returning home to which she replied after the seminar is over. Susan was one of the first to be baptized. Her mom, Helen, is one of the individuals that has made a decision for baptism very soon. I am also excited that the group is already deeply involved with the follow up meetings being conducted by Pastor Sven Frantzen. I am thrilled to see the wonderful response to God and His Word here in Lubbock and other places God has sent me. Submitted by Michael Sady, evangelist

Additional Note: Children's Ministry coordinator, Josie Green, led the children every night with the "*Come Meet Jesus*" curriculum which is designed for the children to hear the same message the evangelist is presenting to the adults. As a result, two precious children (age 8) gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized!

 **Tulia SDA Company Community Outreach:** In February of last year we started discussing a video evangelistic program for Tulia, Texas. A projector was purchased, then we needed to have an audience. We also came up with the Food Bank idea. At first it was thought we could do this with little money, but that proved to not be possible. We made a few mistakes when we ordered food the first time, but we were fast learners. The food is purchased from the Food Bank at \$.16 a pound. Example: an eighteen ounce jar of peanut butter costs \$.18. We even had opportunities to purchase beef pot roast for \$.16/lb. The church does not purchase or give away unclean foods, and we don't try to change everyone into vegetarians either, the health message will come later.

The program was started in May, with our first Tuesday night give-away to less than thirty families and about 14 people (non-Adventist) watching our videos. A retired Spanish Methodist minister helped us by finding needy families. A non-Adventist friend wanted to help and also told a few needy families. The retired minister continues to help with a monthly donation and helping with a couple of shut-in elderly folks.

Our highest attendance so far was 74 families (not counting members). That week we had 64 non-Adventists watching a video in our church. That is more than three times the adult attendance in our church on any given Sabbath.

We show two videos each Tuesday night. One in Spanish and the other in English. As much as

possible, we try to have the same video in both languages. There has been between 8 and 17 people watching in Spanish and up to 47 in English. One night a lady asked to borrow my pen so she could take notes. When she gave my pen back she showed me her notes written on the back of her hand, the palm of her hand and up her arm. She had every Bible text used in the message. We now have paper available.

Most of the people in our neighborhood are coming now on Tuesday evenings, as well as, from different parts of Tulia, a small town of 5,000 people in the Texas Panhandle.

Our program has grown far beyond what we, as a small church can afford, since most of our members are on Social Security. We contacted the Food Bank in Amarillo to see what help they could give. Some Thursday's they send us a special truck with up to 12-14 pallets of free food. These Thursday deliveries are mostly fresh produce that need to be distributed right away. When a truckload is delivered, we put it out on the front lawn of the church. Sometimes there are products that will save until Tuesday, so these are brought into the pantry to use in our Tuesday give-away. There have been some very helpful "freebies" such as juices, breads, pastries, green bananas (that will be just about right by Tuesday), potatoes, apples and oranges that stretch our Tuesday needs.

A lot of people are hurting in this economy. There are people that did not need help before, but do now. There are those that because of mistakes in their past, cannot get food stamps. The people we help not only need to be fed physically, but spiritually. Our food give-away is held once a week for two reasons. First, many do not know how to manage a larger, once a month batch of food. Second, we want them to see 52 videos in a year instead of 12.

This is present day evangelism. We are a small church made up of mostly senior citizens. The majority of us live 30 miles away from town and church. The town of Tulia and the surrounding county is considered a distressed area. We have had full evangelistic meetings in the past without great results. We know that there is a small window of opportunity for our church to grow and survive, since most of our members are above the age of 70 and some in their upper 80's. As most small churches, our pastor has a large district, so he has more to do than there is time to do it. We needed something that could go on when he cannot be here. Videos are the thing. Today the church has so many good videos available. We decided to use the *It Is Written* videos as much as possible, because the television program has a very good history and reputation. This provides continuity in the programs. Shawn Boonstra has a very good presentation, which does not attack and make the viewers uncomfortable. The people in attendance now expect him to be the speaker.

At the beginning, the Food Bank wanted us to offer some kind of a health program. The first series we used was: *EASY STEPS FOR BETTER HEALTH* (Six programs with Shawn Boonstra and Dr. Fred Hardinge) • *I'm so Tired* • *The Rest of Your Life* • *Conquering Stress* • *Fighting Disease with Your Fork* • *Living at the Peak* • *Uncorked*

After that we used the Moody Bible Institute videos on science and creation for the next four Tuesdays. Each video was 28 minutes long. This was to get the visitors used to watching in our church and help combat the evolution theory being taught in school and elsewhere.

This was followed by four Tuesdays of "*Out of Thin Air*," four programs with Shawn Boonstra and Timothy Standish, Ph.D.

- *Does God Exist?* • *Where Do Humans Come From?* • *What Story Does the Fossil Record Tell?*
- *What is the Meaning of Life?*

Then we did "*The Appearing*," five Tuesdays on the second coming. The people loved it! This was followed up with "*The Presence*," five Tuesdays on the Sanctuary. Our best attendance was during this series. It was during these meetings that the lady wrote the Bible texts all over her hand and arm.

We are currently showing "*Standing Firm*," for six Tuesdays on the book of Daniel. As of this writing, we have had only one presentation and the people loved it. We plan to show three or four presentations in December of Dr. Dick Stenbakken's "*Faces Around the Manger*." Those watching expect us to do something about Christmas and we will not disappoint them. We are telling those attending to plan to bring friends for this special presentation. They have never seen anything like it.

In January 2011, we are starting with the presentation of the Great Controversy as presented in "*Cosmic Conflict*" from Amazing Facts.

This will be followed by 24 evangelistic messages by Shawn Boonstra in his "*Revelation Speaks Peace*," which was taped in Phoenix, Arizona. This will take us to the end of June. Then our pastor wants to have a two week meeting in July followed up by a health seminar.

What will be next? At this time, I do not know. If this series works, we will do it again for another year.

Our church needs several things for this missionary project, such as another refrigerator and freezer. We also need help in buying food and more videos beyond what we have shown or are showing. Most of all, we need your prayers for God's guidance and the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. The victories in this program will come in the home as our members and pastor begin their visits.

Anyone wanting to stop by and see what is happening here are invited to come around 6:00 p.m. on any Tuesday evening, unless there is a blizzard, at which time we will cancel for that evening. Plan to stay until 8:00 p.m. and see the whole story. Wear street clothes. We do not wear suits and ties on these nights. You do not have to warn us that you are coming. You are welcome to take part, pitch in and help us. See how a small church can make a difference in a community and in the lives of its neighbors. Most of all remember to pray for us that God will work on the hearts of those who are coming and give us the resources to continue, both with our health and strength (some of our helpers are in their upper 80's) and with the funds to continue this service for God. Submitted by a worker for God wanting to do what Jesus would have me do.



**Reserve, New Mexico:** A few months ago, Anna Crowder's son, Tommy, was dedicated at the Reserve SDA Church after she started working at a restaurant owned by Seventh-day Adventists. Though she was not a member, this spurred a series of Bible studies and she has enjoyed coming to the church now as a regular attendee. She is currently scheduled to be baptized soon. Submitted by Pastor Michael Razon

