

**Violence In Monterrey, Mexico – By Daniel Jones, Missionary there since 1977**



While on furlough, we have been surprised at how little Americans know about the violence south of the border. Most know very little of the nearly 6 year war on drugs that has produced around 55,000 deaths to date. Why the little knowledge? There are two reasons: one, is that the news from Mexico does not get too much attention until an American is shot. Another reason is that the press in Mexico has been either intimidated or is being censored so that what news comes out is either watered

down, or not accurate at all. An example of this is in March of 2011, I was driving towards a preacher's meeting on the other side of town when I received a call on my cell phone from one of the preachers who told me not to go to the meeting, that there was a great shoot-out being conducted between a cartel group and the military. As he was running for his life he yelled into the cell phone: "Bro. Jones, I am running as I speak, and I just passed the 10<sup>th</sup> body that was lying on the sidewalk!" The next morning, there were not 10 reported dead, but 4 and no injuries.

Violence is a way of life in Monterrey, and I would like to give you a bird's eye view of what has been going on just with the people in our church in Monterrey:

I do not know of a single member of the church that has not been threatened by phone at least once and most of us two and three times.

At least five of our members have been car-jacked (some while going to church). One family lost both of their personal cars and one of their business cars! **Three of our members were kidnapped in the last three years with two paying ransom, and one we have not heard of since her disappearance.**

One of our ladies had a Christian book store, and had to close it because the cartels demanded "protection fees". One family had to move to another area of town, when the cartel went into their home-based taco business and beat up the father demanding \$20,000 dollars a month!

One lady took a taxi to go to church; she started witnessing to the man immediately upon entering the taxi. The driver took her down an alley, stopped the car and threatened her with a screw driver demanding she give him everything she had and to get out of the car, and the only reason he did not do her any physical harm was because she spoke to him about "Jesus". (Witnessing can save your life!)

One of our men was coming to the church after soul-winning in his brother's taxi, when at a red light two men got in the taxi. He told them that he was not in service, but they told him that this was his last day on earth, as they pointed a machine gun to the back of his head. They directed him to drive towards Saltillo (west of us) where they were going to kill him and get rid of his body. He told them that if it was God's will that would happen, but that it was all up to the Lord. They mocked his Christianity, and made him sing "those Christian songs". As they approached a red light, this man noticed that there was a police car in the opposite lane, so he literally tried to crash into the car, and though the police avoided the crash, they came out with their guns ready, and he opened the car door, threw himself on the ground and said that the men in the back seat had machine guns!

One of our ladies, graduate of the Bible Institute, won a young lady to the Lord on a Friday in her place of work. The next Monday, they found her headless body on the side of the road!





Two men with pistols tried to car-jack one of our ladies as she left the church. She says that when they stopped her, she panicked, they were cussing and yelling at her to get out of the car, she then stepped on the gas. One of the men shot at her, but either his gun jammed or he misfired, but she got away (and ran the two men over while doing it!).

A kind of funny thing happened to one of our ladies. As she was driving to church, they tried to car-jack her. The man with a gun told her to roll down the window, which she did, and then she exclaimed: "Look! The police!" The man took off running without even looking back!

**The worst part of it all is that they are now going into churches**, beating up the pastor, and robbing all the attendees of their wallets, purses, cell phones, computers, jewelry, keys, etc. It has gotten to the place where churches are now having closed door services! Our main church is even practicing "underground church" just in case the situation gets worse and they have to go into hiding!

We are starting a new Bible Institute in September 2012 due to the cartel activity. We have 12 first year students that were coming to our institute from Cadereyta, about 40 miles from our church. They arrive at the institute at 7:15 p.m. and leave after 10:00 every night. The cartel (Zetas) stopped them one night and told them that they would allow them to go and come from their church to our institute, but that they would not defend them if another cartel attacked them or if they were to get caught in the middle of a gun battle between them and the army or a rival cartel. So, after conferring with the pastor, we have decided to start another Bible Institute in Cadereyta!

One good outcome of the violence is that we have been able to start other works and institutes where the people would not have thought twice to travel to our place before, but now because of the danger involved, they must either remain at home, or we start something in their area!

This is just what one church is experiencing, not to mention the accounts of August of 2011 in which 53 were killed in a Casino when the cartel went in and shot it up and then burned down the establishment!

About the only newspaper that is reporting all the violence in Monterrey has been attacked at least 5 times in the last 9 months. In May, 2012, 43 bodies were found near Cadereyta, with no heads, hands, or feet!

In August, 2012, on the roads from the border to Monterrey, they still shoot, carjack and rob people at will, with seemingly no resistance from the authorities.

Statistics place Mexico as the # 1 nation in manslaughter with over 15,000 killed so far this year!



So, if someone tells you that the violence in Mexico is not really real, that they exaggerate in the reports, or that there is no way that it could be that bad; then they are either not paying attention to what is going on or they are simply ignorant of all the things that are happening.

**Pray for Mexico!**

Sources: Reuter's, Wikipedia and Nation Master Statistics on Violence in Mexico.