

**Missions club and Zorro;
God uses childhood experiences to lead missionaries to the field**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg
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Mexico City (LAMNS)—
Missionary Donna Waguespack credits a church mission club and Zorro with playing a role in her decision to serve the Lord in Mexico. “My interest in missions began in my hometown Southern Baptist church where I was in the GA’s (Girl’s Auxiliary), a club for girls studying about missions. In 4th or 5th grade I had a Sunday School teacher—Miss Annie Jackson—who would invite me over to her house to play and bake cookies. She would read me letters that she had received from missionaries. That was originally how I found out about missions.”



“My interest in Latin things started because, at five years old, I was in love with Zorro,” she jokes.

Today, Donna and her husband Bob live in Mexico City where he teaches at several local seminaries and Donna is busy raising their children and helping out at Capital City Baptist Church, an English-language Southern Baptist congregation.

“My main thing is our home because my husband travels all over the city and someone has to be here who is aware of what is going on with the children and to be here when they come home,” she reflects. But, with her children getting older, Donna now feels that she can give more time to other projects.

“Our church has been great, it has been a place where we can learn ministry by doing it,” she says. “I used to teach art to high school students, but didn’t have that much experience with children. Within our church’s bilingual Bible study, I learned I could teach the Bible.”

Donna, a native of Thomasville, Alabama, is planning and leading music at the church’s weekday women’s Bible study. “We started doing music because it was a chance for the women to get their heads out of the traffic—it is very difficult to drive here. It was so exciting to discover that in studying with the teacher to see what the main things were that needed to be brought out in the music, we would see that God was leading and providing and keeping us on the same wave length.”

Raising a family in a foreign culture has at times been a struggle for Donna and Bob. “A few years ago we were involved in a project with the Billy Graham Association and Samaritans Purse. Both organizations sent people here and our son translated for the camera crew. I could see the benefits for our children in being here.”

But schooling and other cultural adaptations have been difficult. “We felt that God wanted us to have our kids in a Mexican school up to sixth grade, even though that was difficult for us,” she reflects. “It has been difficult, for example, knowing that cousins are reading English on a much higher level. But, as another missionary mother reminded us, at least our children speak two languages.” Donna says that it is also hard for her children to “be different” when they go back to the U.S. on furlough.

The cultural isolation can be helpful in some aspects of life. “I think that my spiritual life has been better here because things are hard,” Donna says. “It’s very lonely here, you have to work at getting together with other people. You have all of those familiar cultural props taken away from you that you don’t realize are there in your own culture. The only one to go to is God.”

Has she thought about what life might be like back in the United States? She has, but “I would have to be really, really convinced that that was what God wanted us to do and there would have to be some extraordinary things to show me that,” she explains. “I have never felt that returning is what He wanted. It would have to be a ministry job. I have heard of people going back and selling insurance and I think, wouldn’t you just die inside if you had to do that?”

For now, Donna knows that God has placed her in Mexico raising her children and sharing in ministry at her family’s church.

The Latin America Mission works in partnership with churches and Christian agencies throughout Latin America and supports missionaries and projects in many Latin countries as well as in Spain. LAM is seeking to place new missionaries throughout the region. The U.S. headquarters can be reached at Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami Springs, FL 33152, by e-mail at info@lam.org, or by calling 1-800-275-8410. The mission’s web site may be found at <http://www.lam.org>. LAM’s Canadian office is at 3075 Ridgeway Drive, Unit 14, Mississauga, ON L5L 5M6.

Missions club and Zorro; God uses childhood experiences to lead missionaries to the field, *LAM News Service*, Mar 31, 2000