

December 1992

Dear Friends,

We heard a loud "crack" and the van shuddered. We knew something serious had occurred as the van's front end dropped ten inches. We began to look for a place to stop, because roads in Mexico have no shoulders. We had been traveling around 50mph when the spring gave way followed by a sound like a gunshot as the gas shock exploded under the weight of the van.

We pulled over under a mesquite and examined the front end of the vehicle. The cargo spring of our one ton diesel maxi-van had snapped. Blessedly, we were on the out skirts of our town and we limped home. Our pastor from the States, while ministering with us in Mexico said, "You don't need a one ton truck, you need a tank."

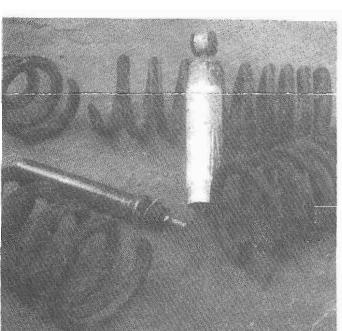
Driving in Mexico is an experience not to be believed. Roads are poorly engineered and ridden with pot holes, stretches go for miles without shoulders, or places to pull over and stop. They have a saying that illustrates the condition:

"The Mexican truck drivers in their over loaded trucks, beat the 'heck' out of the roads, then the roads beat the 'heck' out of the truck drivers."

There are few road signs to assist the traveler - and as they try to improve and build new roads, you might pay a \$7 toll for a ten mile stretch of highway that isn't on any maps and drops you in the middle of no where with no directions.

Lee & Carol Short

Lee and Carol blessing you in this New Year
GLOBE



The remains of the front suspension

You suddenly find yourself on a road that looks like the aftermath of a war as the asphalt roads disintegrate into little mud basins. You wonder where you are as you feel your vehicle slip down into what seems like a bowl of mashed potatoes and gravy. You try to maneuver to ride on the rims of potholes which adjoin potholes and the road surface rolls in waves underneath you.

This last year we replaced the shocks four times. This year we've done it twice, along with having the one inch coils on the front end break. Recently we took our muffler out of the back seat where it had enjoyed a four month rest. At the same time, we had the roof supports of the van rewelded. Every support was broken from the bouncing of the roads and luggage on the roof. The flexing metal roof without supports would sing like a musical saw as we drove down the road.

We are very grateful for our vehicle; for our family and our ministry. We feel that it is the ideal vehicle, but the condition of the roads, especially in rural and remote villages, will take its toll on the most rugged of vehicles. Please pray with us as we begin to pray about replacing our vehicle, a very important and necessary part of our ministry.

## Prayer Requests

- 1. We have just learned that our insurance company is in serious trouble and may not pay our over \$10,000 hospital/doctor bill for Josh's surgery. Please pray that they will pay those bills.
- 2. Please pray for Fran and Judy Roberts, Rich and Ruth Lamb, and Harry and Ginny Stevenson as they try to raise support to come and work with us.
- 3. As he sees himself loosing, the racketeer lawyer is frantically trying to harass us. Pray that he is finally and completely defeated and leaves us in peace.

As we travel down the roads in Mexico, we are grateful to be your hands extended in ministry.

In His Service,

Lie, Caral

Josh, Amy, Sarah

The Shorts

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