

Mexican Bible Names

See if you can find books of the Bible that begin with the letters of the following word:


I _____
N _____
D _____
I _____
A _____
N _____
S _____

True story!

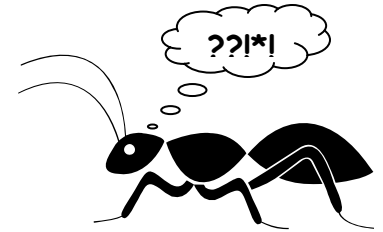
In Mexico we knew this mother of eight children who used to live in a shack on the dump ground outside of a big city. When her husband died, she knew there was no way that she could earn enough as a woman to take care of all her family, so she decided to do something very unusual - she changed her name, started to dress and act like a man, and became a thief. She learned how to be a pickpocket - stealing money and valuables from people as she passed them in the busy streets. She also formed a gang of pickpockets, who all thought she was a man. She became powerful and well known among the other thieves and criminals, although her gang never got caught. Years passed and she became quite rich - until one day when she heard the Gospel and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord. She soon realized that she could not continue to lie and steal now that she was a Christian, so she called her gang together and told them what had happened to her - and that she was really a woman! Everyone was amazed to learn the truth about her, and soon she found that as she shared her testimony, others wanted to know about Jesus too. After a while she started a church and still is the pastor; one of her daughters also started a church at the age of 18!

Only Jesus Christ can change lives like that!! Let us hear what Jesus has done in YOUR life! "Til next time, love Shirley.

World Kids PAL Page is a ministry of IMOF Inc, 8069 FM 1251E, Henderson, TX.
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World Kids
Fun facts for kids! True stories!

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Pyramids, bungee jumping, Indians and chocolate ants - Can you guess which country has all of these?

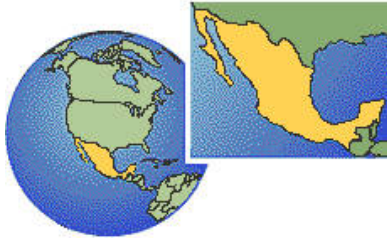


You might be surprised to learn that we're talking about **MEXICO** this month! Many people, especially in the U.S.A. already know a lot about Mexico and its culture - tamales and tacos, fiestas with piñatas, Mariachi music and beautiful beaches like Cancun. But we want to tell you some facts that you may NEVER have heard about before!

The population of Mexico is about 100 million people and about ONE FOURTH of them live in the capital, Mexico City, making it one of the LARGEST cities in the world!

Mexico City is about 10,000 feet above sea level and is surrounded by even higher mountains including the volcano Popocatepetl - which pours out smoke and ashes sometimes!

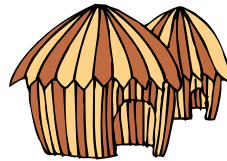




Mexico is a large, mountainous country that joins the United States and Central America. Most of its inhabitants are called "Mestizos", who are descended from the original Aztec Indians and the Spanish

who came and conquered that land 500 years ago; and so they speak Spanish. However there are also thousands of "Indians", belonging to dozens of different tribes like the Nahuatl and the Tarahumara, who live mostly in isolated mountain areas all over Mexico, but especially in the southern states. They all still speak their native language (although a few also now speak Spanish). These Indian languages are not variations of Spanish, but each is a TOTALLY distinct language - and some tribes STILL do not have the Bible translated into their language!!

Most Indians are very short and with straight black hair, and they are very quiet, unemotional people. The Indian culture is very different from the Mexican culture - often the girls get married at the age of 13 or 14, and their life is very hard; they live in thatched huts, often far from a paved road, and on the side of a mountain. They get their water from a well or stream, have no electricity or bathroom, and cultivate the steep hillsides to grow black beans and corn, which provide most of their food. Often the only work the men can get is cutting grass with a machete all day under the hot sun for a few dollars, and so they have very little money.



The women rarely leave the area around the home and spend their day hauling water, washing clothes, and cooking over an open fire the beans and corn tortillas that are often eaten 3 times a day, with chicken or eggs only on special occasions. It is very difficult to get medical treatment and most families have lost babies due to sickness - because of this, sometimes babies are not even given a name until they are 2 or 3 years old!!



Because many Indian and Mestizo people live in areas far from cities, there are still many older people who cannot read or write. This means that they have learned very little except from their families and neighbors - and THIS means that many believe



superstitions that seem very silly to us! Many ideas come from the Aztecs who built pyramids like this one that can still be seen today near Mexico City. It was like a temple to the sun god and many people were sacrificed to the gods by being thrown off the top!

There are still many "brujas" or witchdoctors in Mexico that use herbs and plants to cure diseases or make a "potion" to cure a problem! One common belief is that passing a fresh egg over the body of a sick person will cause the spirit of the sickness to leave and go into the egg, causing it to become hard-boiled! Many people put a string of garlic over their front door to keep away the devil!

Do YOU know how to make the devil go away?
Read James 4:7



Superstitious people do NOT like change and sadly, many of the Indians who call themselves Catholic, still have many beliefs mixed up with idol worship. They do not want ANYONE to share the truth about Jesus Christ with them or others, and sometimes threaten and persecute evangelical Christians who are trying to preach the Gospel. Even today there are villages where Christians are not allowed to get water from the local well, or they are beaten up on their way to church. In Chiapas in 2002, 100 children were refused enrollment in their primary school because they came from evangelical families, and even in November 2003, 2 pastors were killed and houses and churches belonging to evangelicals were burned!

Some of the traditions of the Indians have become tourist attractions. In El Tajin, Totonac "fliers" climb a tall pole, tie themselves to the top and then descend as the ropes unwind - like a type of graceful "bungee jump"!

