

Praise the Lord! We can finally report that we are home. We arrived last night about 5 pm. It was a long drive, pulling the Chevy Luv behind us. We had to drive 50 mph or less the whole way (depending on winds, potholes and speed bumps). The border crossing took 5 hours to do the paperwork on the Tahoe, but we didn't have any trouble with customs for our personal items.

The Lord's protecting hand was evident in many ways along the way. One specific case happened the last morning that we were driving. We had spent the night at a toll plaza, sleeping in the Tahoe. When we were ready to leave in the morning, the Tahoe wouldn't start! We spent 30-40 minutes finding out what was the problem. We tried jumping the battery with no success and finally a fellow that was looking at it with us wiggled a battery cable while Tom tried starting it and it started! Just a slightly loose cable. Well, after getting back on the road, we drove an hour in the fog only to find that there had been a huge accident roughly 30 minutes before we reached that point. A double semi rammed into four or five vehicles (it was hard to tell because they were almost all completely destroyed). Traffic lined up for miles behind us. We found out this morning that the lines stretched for roughly 20 miles.

This morning, we called our mechanic and explained what happened with the Luv. He told us to bring it right in. It turns out that he had absolutely no cars in the shop this morning and was able to pull it apart and see what was wrong. He is always very busy so we were feeling very blessed that he could take it right in. In fact, he has 5 assistants that work with him and they were all eager for something to work on. Unfortunately, a piston in the engine is shot (corroded and burned away). He will get back to us tomorrow to tell us how much it will cost (part of the work, grinding, is something he has to get someone to work on). He recommends that we get the truck fixed and sell it right away. He says he can fix it as good as new but that in another 8-10 months, it will probably have engine trouble again. He says that Luv's Isuzu engines are notorious for their poor workmanship and usually have problems after 65, 000 kilometers. Our Luv had over that (roughly 50, 0000 miles on it). We plan to take his advice.

The Tahoe will be our vehicle for now. Our mechanic says that it is a solid vehicle and he can fix anything that goes wrong with it. If we want to change it later for a different vehicle, we can easily sell it here and get another used US vehicle. He will help us pick a good vehicle when/if we want to change. We also now have a Mexican contact on the border who can get used US vehicles of just about any make/model at reasonable prices. All those US vehicles that we looked for in Austin but couldn't find are sitting in Matamorros across the border. You just need someone who knows who to purchase from (for an honest deal and not get something stolen).

Thank you all so much for your prayers and notes of encouragement! Please continue to pray for the process of fixing and selling the Luv. Also pray as we get everything in order and get going again on tanks, the Equip land and the new seminars.

Joy in the Journey, Nancy