

Afif Kabande – Feb 9th 2009 in Guadalajara

- Talking about the Kabande family who came from Bethlehem to Mexico in around 1903.
- Tampico port- an important port for immigrants.
- They stayed with the 'Andorrez' family (from what I could hear) for a short time.
- As they were foreign, they could not buy much land.
- They made a lot of money in San Pedro as they had learnt Spanish. They had servants. They were so rich that if they dropped a gold coin, they wouldn't pick it up.
- At the time of revolution 1910-c1920. When the general came to San Pedro, his uncle and father told him that he was with him and would make things for his soldiers.
- They invested all their fortune in cotton in attempt to make money to return to Palestine. However, immense rain flooded the fields in around 1920 and they lost everything. They owed money to a lot of people.
- Moved to Mexico and his father met his mother, Eva, and married in 1932 or 1933. He was born in 1936. His brother Pepe in 1935 and his sister Elena was born in 1934. During times of Depression. Apparently this was not a problem in Mexico.
- Father would leave alone, moving from place to place in search for business.
- 10 years his father spent selling clothes with a caravan travelling around.
- His father fell gravely ill and then recuperated and stopped travelling at 50 years of age.
- Afif says he stopped studying to work with his brother in his dad's business selling shoes. Pepe, Afif and his brother sold a lot of shoes and extended the business. He says he is very skilled in maths.
- Father died when Afif was 21. They built a house for their mother a year later.
- Then business changed to women's shoes. 150 employees. Began to make their own shoes instead of buying and selling.
- His uncle Elias was very important to him and wanted to leave him the business, but Afif preferred to return to his brother and sell shoes.