

AUGUST 2024 mexico mission trip



Let me first start by praising God – “Gloria a Dios” for all that He was able to do through our group. Next, let me thank those who prayed for us, supported us financially, and those who encouraged us and continue to do so. This was my first group-leading solo. I have been to Mexico 6 times over the past 14 years, but have not planned and led a group myself. This was a personal answer to prayer for me as I was unsure if this was what God was leading me to do or wanted me to do in the future. He answered those prayers clearly. I will be going back, and plan on more than once per year.

We had a group of 13. 7 from Saratoga, WY, from Helena, MT, and 2 from Grand Rapids, MN. We had 4 “older adults”, 2 young adults, and 7 teenagers. It was an awesome group, and the unity, hard work, and spiritual involvement grew daily. Often, I told the group how proud I was of their flexibility as we had many things thrown our way we were not prepared for—no water, no electricity, schedule changes, driving at dark, and illness. We had planned to work on the Camp Chapel in Rio Chico and do a volleyball camp in Pena Blanca, and we accomplished both of those as well as numerous other activities.

We thought Tuesday would be a planning day, tour the area; the greenhouse, the farm, and get a feel for what was needed. Little did we know we were starting the volleyball camp that day. So, our wonderful team of teenage girls made a plan, got the equipment ready, and pulled off a great 3-day camp. We had approximately 40 or 50 youths and teens come to the camp, ending with a fiesta, music, and dancing.

We saw the Holy Spirit move in the lives of people. The first day there was a group of teenage boys off to the side, vaping, and not engaged. But our group was having fun, laughing, and teaching young people. By day two, that group had moved to a closer table. By day three, all but 2 of the boys were participating. We were told those 2 were the leaders and would not join us. But our group stayed around after the fiesta and eventually, the leader came and participated. My lesson to our group was that JOY IS CONTAGIOUS.



We had planned to visit the farm and look around. We ended up pulling weeds from the potatoes for a few hours. Gloria a Dios, the fruit trees have thousands of apples, the corn is growing, as well as beans, potatoes and we even have several baby goats.

We were also able to serve dinner at the 50th Anniversary of the Pena Blanca Church. We were unprepared as this was a very formal event; suits, ties, and dresses. Our young ladies borrowed some dresses and were able to serve almost 100 people that evening.

Then the stomach bug hit our group. Again, I was so proud of how the group banded together to clean up (several times) and care for those who were ill. In all, about half the group succumbed to “Montezuma’s Revenge”. We were thankful it was after the camp, after the construction, and on a day when we were not scheduled for travel.

One thing we did learn: Pastor Vince has a big heart and an even bigger mouth as I committed us and said yes to pretty much everything. We knocked out concrete stage, we served dinner, we preached or spoke at 2 different churches, we sang – IN SPANISH, and I have committed to help in the future.



Pena Blanca is a place that has huge significance for me and our Church. This is where Radonna Williams (and Merilee) and I (and Elizabeth) met 8 years ago. At that time we had no idea I would become the Pastor of their Church in Saratoga. 8 years ago Radonna held a baby boy with a “tumor” on his forehead. They asked me to lay hands on him and pray for healing, which I did. And for 8 years I have wondered about that boy. We found out that he was at our volleyball camp. Liam Bencomo is a bright, kind, wonderful little boy full of energy and life.

Gloria a Dios!

There is much work to do there, and they need our support. The chapel is not completed. This was also a lesson for me. We were \$1k short on materials. I went back to my Church and apologized to them. I didn’t ask for \$, I don’t know why, and I robbed them of the blessing of being involved in God’s work. Ask and you will receive, seek and find, knock and the door is open. So, if I knock on your door, it is not to beg for money, it is to invite you into the work that God is doing through His people, His Church, the body and bride of Christ.

There is so much more I could go on and on about (the Pastor group I was invited into, the invitations throughout MX, the roof needed at the Church, and others) You will just have to come and experience it for yourself. December? March? Next August? Or will you financially commit to supporting this work? We are the body of Christ and each one has a role, purpose, and responsibility. Will you go, will you send, will you pray, will you encourage, what is your role?

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