

# A slice of the Action

education transformation mission Christ in action compassion  
 Yucatan disaster relief homes for youth partnerships travel love  
 Mexico adventure scholars family Mayan new beginnings opportunity

## Letter from the Director

- Oscar R. Dorantes

**D**ear Friends,

We arrive at the end of another year and again, we have experienced God’s ongoing providence in the work we just performed during 2013. We are pleased to send you our warmest greetings, as well as to inform of the progress made this year at several levels.

Homes for Education. Acción's Mayan Children's Village and Merida Student house are still a great blessing to many precious children and young people who want to build their futures. This summer we saw about a dozen children and young people complete their basic and higher education while other children and young people enrolled in our programs. Now, they are able to dream about this initial path of their overall training.

### Supporting Mayan communities

We have reaffirmed our commitment to churches and Mayan communities. With the help from U.S. work teams, we were able to complete hurricane housing projects and improvements in ceilings, floors, and courts in different Christian churches. There are now new facilities such as classrooms, children's activity rooms, social and sports spaces. Now they can dedicate and inaugurate these spaces for Christian activities knowing that work for the Lord has not been in vain.

Staff. Oscar, Roger, Oveth, Nico and Isaac all continue to play additional roles, acting as church pastors, youth pastors, maintenance and educators. With this team, we have developed better communication at all levels,

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so that a better flow of information is evident in the projects of the Ministry.

**Vision.** As Acción Ministries, we desire to be a supporting link of opportunities to churches, communities and Mayan families; in the near future we would like to see this support being increased, with a much better quality in every project, only for the glory of the Most High over all things.

We want to thank our good God for his faithful providence in using you, our friends, brothers, sisters, sponsors, as well as ourselves in spreading His kingdom. We send a warm greeting for your faithful support. As Acción Ministries, we remain committed to serving the Lord of the vineyard.

**S**incerely, your Acción Partner in Mexico,

Oscar R. Dorantes

## Alternative Giving

Your donation or “alternative Christmas gift” for a loved one will support Acción’s operating costs, ensuring that our students at the Mayan Children’s Village (Villa Infantil Maya—VIM) and the Merida Student House (Casa Estudiantil Merida—CEM) receive meals and housing in a supportive Christian environment as they attend school from these homes away from home.

- \$10** Purified water for a week at VIM or CEM
- \$20** Tortillas for a week at CEM
- \$30** Propane gas for a month of cooking meals at VIM or CEM
- \$140** One month of room and board for one student at VIM or CEM
- \$750** New tires for one truck
- \$1,000** New work computer for Oveth
- \$1,500** One year of room and board for one student at VIM or CEM



**Frequent Flyer Miles** Help offset the travel costs of Roger and Oscar visiting U.S. churches



Tax-deductable contributions should be sent to:

**Friends of Accion, Inc.**

% Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1000 E. Morehead St.  
Charlotte, NC 28204

[www.friendsofaccion.org](http://www.friendsofaccion.org)

## Music Unites Two Cultures

- John Baxter

**T**hirty-four members of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina helped members of the Church of Jesus Light of the World in Calcachen, Yucatan, roof their Sunday school rooms as well as expand their patio in July. This was the first group to work with this church in 19 years and we were graciously received.

This was truly an intergenerational group the youngest at 17 and the oldest at 70 plus every generation in between. For many it was their first mission trip and a few their first out of the U.S. For trip veterans it was chance to

reunite with Pastor Teodulo May with whom we had worked in Kimbala six years prior. And the entire team was able to work with Oveth, Kipo, and church members as well as meet others on the Acción team.

While every trip has its logistical challenges, they were more than offset by the evolving friendship between our two congregations. One of the highlights were joint musical efforts during our services as well as afterwards. The music became a great communicator for both of us. For the Covenant team it was a memorable time.



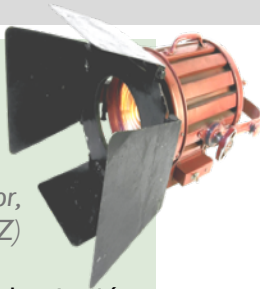
## Spotlight: Board Member, Ken Skodiak

Associate Pastor,  
Northminster Presbyterian Church (Tucson, AZ)

For years my primary relationship with Acción Ministries was to bring a team of students from our church to build roofs on either houses and/or a church in the summer. This is an amazing experience which our church still continues to this day. These trips have and continue to have a tremendous impact on the lives of the students and leaders who participate. Roger and Oscar have consistently shared that what we do is simply not 'building a roof' for a family or community of faith, but primarily we are taking part in God's mission and kingdom building in that community.

It wasn't until recently that I became a board member, and it has given me a new appreciation for all the other ministry Acción is doing and the lives they are impacting now and into the future. Since then we as a church have sent a smaller team to repair the water purification system at the Mayan Children's Village and we are now as a mission committee thinking of ways in which we can extend our partnership with Acción throughout the whole year, not just coming down in the summer.

The people on the board of Acción approach their call with passion and skill and are dedicated to making sure the ministry of Jesus Christ through Acción continues to touch the lives of the people of the Yucatan Peninsula for many years to come. Jesus' final instruction to his disciples and thereby his church, was to go and make disciples, and I believe that through your generosity and prayers Acción Ministries is faithfully carrying that command to the Yucatan.



## Projects and Operations

- Rich Neidinger, Friends of Acción  
Board President

Praise God for the continuing success of the Mayan Children's Village (Villa Infantil Maya, "VIM"), Merida Student House (Casa Estudiantil Merida, "CEM"), and the mission work teams! Thank you for your support of these programs! Young Mexican men and women are graduating and eager young minds and spirits are coming off the waiting list and into VIM and CEM. Homes, churches and VIM facilities have seen great improvements! Check out the photos on our Facebook page that is updated by Acción staff member, Oveth.

From the financial viewpoint of Friends of Accion, all of the wonderful education and building accomplishments break into two categories: Projects and Operations. Projects are primarily work team projects, although generous donors also fund other improvements for VIM and CEM, and other needs such as disaster relief. Operations include everything else that keep the homes running for the youth and provide staff and vehicles that are essential for Acción. Operations cost more than projects on an annual basis, and have not been funded by any of the project money, even though staff and vehicles

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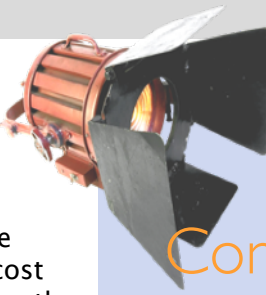


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contribute to the projects. All general donations go toward operations; the largest component of which is feeding the students at VIM and CEM.

Beginning this 2014 work team season, we will use a small portion of the work team cost to help fund operations. We are increasing the Acción cost per team member from \$440 to \$500 and plan for this increase to help make operations possible. A review of expenses from the last season's work teams has verified that on average about \$220 per person was spent just on materials and Mexican masons for the work team project. The majority of the remaining \$220 per person went for transportation, with the rest covering everything else related to the project preparation and execution, hammocks and housing. Most of the cost increase will be like a tithe to support the ministry of Acción, something that we hope work teams will embrace.

Mission trips, donations for improvements, BECAS sponsorships (see p. 7 for more information), and general donations, all make a real difference in the Yucatan. Please help us keep the operations running, so we can meet the challenge of daily provisions for over 50 youth. Expanded support could allow us to expand the program. Together, we are Christ's hands in the Yucatan, with His love working through us.



## Spotlight: Student, Concepción Tau Ha

Concepción Tau Ha is a 23 year old from Constituyentes, Quintana Roo. He loves football (soccer) and traveling. His life philosophy is to "help others no matter who they are."

Concepción's parents are very supportive of his education, but simply do not have the means to pay for it.

Concepción lived at the Mayan Children's Village (VIM) from 2007-2013 and recently graduated from high school. He has now moved to the Merida



Student House where he is pursuing a college degree in Business Administration.

Concepción says, "I have 5 sisters and 4 brothers. I am the only one in my family who is studying. I am completely grateful to [Acción] the support I have been offered for several years already. This is the biggest support that I have received and that has impacted my life."



## 2013 Work Teams

**T**hank you short-term missionaries for another fabulous year of Work Teams in the Yucatan! We had 9 teams with 182 volunteers visit Mexico to serve the Mayan people with Acción Ministries:

*Watching the interactions and bonds that developed between our team and the young people of Mexil was pretty special.*

*- Lew Thomas, Westminster Pres. Church*

- 28 people from First Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND built walls for a church in Jol Cataraya, Chiapas.
- 12 people (families with children) from Charlotte, NC helped construct floors for a new dining hall at VIM.
- 5 people from Charlotte, NC purchased, transported, and installed new metal lockers at VIM.
- 25 people from Northminster Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ added concrete floors and roofs to finish construction on new homes in Mexil, Yucatan.
- 16 youth and adults from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC did construction on a new dining hall at VIM.
- 19 people from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC added concrete floors and roofs to finish construction on new homes in Mexil, Yucatan.
- 27 people from Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, VA built a multipurpose court for a church in Hocaba, Yucatan.
- 34 adults from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC roofed a church in Cacalchen, Yucatan.
- 16 people from Gettysburg Presbyterian Church built a multipurpose court for a church in

*What a blessing to step out of our comfort zone and help those who have so little but are so rich in so many ways.*

*- Lenwood Collins, Westminster Pres. Church*



# BECAS help Acción support students at VIM and CEM

- John Baxter

In early 2013, Friends of Accion created the BECAS program to help fund the cost of students at the Mayan Children's Village (VIM) and Merida Student House (CEM). BECAS, the Spanish word for "scholarships," is an acronym for Building Educational Chances through American Sponsors. It allows the sponsor to fund the cost of an individual student on a full or partial basis. The sponsors can choose an individual student, have one chosen for them or give without designation. During the school year, they will receive information on the students' progress as well as individual letters.

To date, Acción has fifteen full and six partial BECAS scholarships and has generated over \$20,000 to help support our students. This necessary funding will allow us to continue support thirty-three students at VIM and seventeen at CEM. The demand from Mayan families to place their students at VIM and CEM continues to grow. Additional BECAS sponsors will allow Acción to expand the number of students served. Please consider joining us in this effort. You can mail us the sheet below, or go online to our website ([www.friendsofaccion.org](http://www.friendsofaccion.org)) to learn more and sign up to become a BECAS sponsor.



## Yes! I would like to pledge my support and become a BECAS sponsor.

Pledges are made on an annual basis using the school calendar year (August through July). BECAS sponsors have the option each summer to renew their scholarship commitments for the upcoming school year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (street, state, zip): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to give...  a full scholarship of \$140 per month (\$1,680 annually, \$840 per semester)

a partial scholarship of \$70 per month (\$840 annually, \$420 per semester)

a partial scholarship of \$35 per month (\$420 annually, 210 per semester)

My gift installments will be...  annual (once per year)  by semester (twice per year)  monthly

I wish to remain anonymous and not sponsor a specific student OR  Please select a student for me.

Friends of Accion, Inc., supporting

# Acción Ministries

Improving lives in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula

Friends of Accion, Inc.  
% Covenant Presbyterian Church  
1000 E. Morehead St.  
Charlotte, NC 28204-2813

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*Friends of Accion, Inc. is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which supports the work of Acción Ministries in Mexico. Your contributions are tax deductible; please give generously.*

[www.friendsofaccion.org](http://www.friendsofaccion.org)

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