



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

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Acción Ministries I would like to thank you for helping us continue to build His Kingdom among the Mayan People of the Yucatan Peninsula.

Year after year you continue to

support all of our endeavors as we, as partners continue to act and live what the scriptures state “That His name be great among the nations” Malachi 1:11.

I had the opportunity to witness how your donations help us to bring love and

hope to many Mayan families. As I shared with the Mayan Churches and now with you, when we work together, pray together and worship together “we are one in Christ”.

The goal of Accion is to continue to



In this Issue:

- Letter from Oscar..... 1
- New CEM Director.....2
- Covenant Trip.....3
- Spotlight: Board.....4
- Gettysburg Trip.....4
- Student Homes5
- Spotlight: Student.....5
- 2015 Work Teams.....6
- Northminster Trip.....7



The Dorantes Family (son Andre, wife Patricia, daughter Maya, and El

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

provide with education and help our Mayan brothers and sisters to build His church and make disciples.

Thank you again for your generous support of our efforts to reach these Mayan children in Mexico, and we look forward to your continued support.

En Cristo Jesus,
Oscar Dorantes, Executive Director



Gerardo Cauch's mom drops him off for another semester of high school at the Mayan Children's Village.



Students from VIM pray at their graduation party (June 2015).

Merida Student House Welcomes a New Director

Juan Alberto Ojeda Arana was born in Felipe Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo. He is our new Resident Director of the Casa Estudiantil Maya (CEM - Merida Student House) since January 2015.



Juan is 26 years old, and lived at CEM from 2007 to 2013. He has completed his Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering and is now concentrating his efforts towards a Masters Degree. He is replacing Nicolás Alvaro who has moved back to his home state of Chiapas. Please, pray for Juan in his new role. ☩

Where the Road Has Taken Us

- Kristen Roehrig

Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC

Our journey began with a smooth day of travel starting in the Charlotte-Douglas International Airport and ended in Villa Infantil Mayan (VIM) on the Yucatán Peninsula. VIM is a place where middle and high school aged Mayan students live during the week so that they can attend schools which are too far from their rural homes. Our group of 12 Covenant high school seniors and six adult leaders got acquainted with our accommodations, prepared and ate dinner, played the first of many games of volleyball and settled into our first night of sleeping in hammocks.



Kristen Roehrig (top right) is currently in her freshman year at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Monday through Thursday mornings, we worked to build the concrete floor of what will become a dining hall for VIM students. After countless bucket brigades, shovelfuls of gravel and sand, concrete splattering, sore arms and sweat, we completed our assignment and wrote our names in the concrete. Each day after lunch, we would enjoy a much-anticipated siesta. After our break, we rode in

trucks to the town of Ignacio Zaragoza where we were greeted by Mayan families for a f t e r n o o n activities. The women's crafts team patiently led the mothers in making jewelry while the VBS team tirelessly played soccer, blew bubbles, and decorated balloon animals. Each day, the children multiplied and so did the joy that they brought. After dinner, we spent our time speaking Spanglish and playing with the students living at VIM, participating in thoughtful devotions, and covering ourselves in bug spray.



Covenant Team Members bring Vacation Bible School to the people of Ignacio Zaragoza

On Friday, we visited the Chichen Itza Mayan ruins, swam in an underground cenote (sinkhole) and walked around the town of Valladolid. On Saturday, we said goodbye to the people living at VIM and then embarked on our journey home. Throughout the week, God was surely working through us as we built more than a floor, as it is memories of the relationships with the Mayan people and each other that we will remember.

It was a great way to transition from a "Child of Covenant" to Covenant college student and beyond.



Spotlight:

Board Member, Christine Canaga




God's Family Shows Up

- Dave Wright, Pastor of Gettysburg, Presbyterian Church (Gettysburg, PA)

Christine Canaga has been working with Accion Ministries for many years. She has been a member of work teams since 1997, visiting over 25 Mayan villages on her 17 trips.




Christine has been a mission project participant with Vienna Presbyterian Church, Fairfield Presbyterian Church, and Gettysburg Presbyterian Church. She has coordinated Vacation Bible School activities in each village with Bible stories, songs, and craft projects.

Christine is an elementary school teacher in Fairfax, Virginia. Her flexible summer schedule allows her to continue traveling to the Yucatan to work with Accion Ministries. She is passionate about Accion Ministries, the building projects, and the multi-generational experience the mission trips provide. Christine has shared many of these adventurous trips with her father and many close family friends. 

I was excited as we prepared for this year's trip to Kancab, Yucatan. However, I was also a little anxious. Many of our "veterans" were unable to go on the trip and I had lots of young rookies, several of whom I didn't know well at all! I wondered how they would do and how much extra work we remaining veterans would have to do. Having led these trips for almost 30 years, I should have known not to worry. God will provide as God always does!

The village was strongly Maya, so much so that we needed Spanish-Maya translators to communicate with many of the people. God provided what we needed, and we formed close connections with our generous hosts. Those new, young adults were wonderful team members, providing extra physical strength for the construction and wonderful input during our study and worship together. They all plan to return next year. God provided.

We are grateful for the ministry of Accion which makes it possible for us to partner with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the Yucatan. Through them God provides for us each year! 



Dave and a translator help fit an elderly woman with new glasses.

Student Homes

- Stacy Lynch, Friends of Acción Board President
(Charlotte, NC)

Have you ever experienced something for the first time and it felt “right” to you? That’s how it was on my first mission trip with Acción in 2001. Members of three different Charlotte area churches cut the original road into The Mayan Children’s Village (Villa Infantil Maya – VIM). I was hooked; I became a mission trip junkie.

This past August I struck out for the city of Mérida with two other past board members, Elise Barksdale and Louise Ripple. Our purpose was to see Acción’s student homes and to get

continued on page 6



Spotlight: Student, Jose Canché

José Esteban Canché Cauich (photos bottom left) lives at CEM where he attends university for a Civil Engineering Degree. In his own words, José describes his path to CEM and the gift of education in his life.

“I went to elementary school in my home town of San Juan de Dios but in order to attend middle school, I had to go to a town twenty minutes away because there was no local middle school. While I was in school, I helped my father with farming on weekends. I wanted to continue my studies, but high school was not a possibility, much less college.

I had something that was going to hold me back—poverty. However I also had a drive to achieve my dream of becoming a professional. This was my heart’s desire and I prayed that God would find a way.

“VIM became an answer to that prayer and I finished my high school studies there. Then I had the opportunity to live at CEM to achieve my dream of college.


“On my path I have suffered, cried, and lacked some things. But God has sustained me and Accion has made a way to achieve the goal that I yearned for. Accion’s supporters have lifted me up over insurmountable obstacles and I will always be grateful. To God be the glory!



José at CEM (left) and posing with friends (top left)

continued from page 5

to know the staff better.

The Merida Student House (Casa Estudiantil Merida – CEM) has a new kitchen and is clean and well run by Juan. VIM has never looked better. The new dining facility for the children is almost done. VIM Directors, Isaac and Juanita, were gracious hosts and take such good care of the kids. Oscar, Jr., Oveth, and Roger are ably steering Acción Ministries in the right direction. I can assure you that every penny that is being sent to Accion Ministries is being well spent. Children’s lives are being transformed by the opportunity to receive an education, thanks to your support. 



Elise, Louise, and Stacy (the author), with Juana (Director of VIM)

2015 Work Teams

Thank you short-term missionaries for another year of Work Team impact in the Yucatan! We had 9 teams with 177 volunteers visit Mexico to serve the Mayan people with Acción Ministries:

- 5 people from First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC helped out at VIM by painting, building benches, and pouring a new concrete floor to help prepare for new kitchen at the Mayan Children’s Village (Villa Infantil Maya – VIM) in Quintana Roo.

“It was a great privilege to travel with this group of [high school] seniors and experience a mission trip with them.”

- Cathy Kendrick,, Covenant Pres. Church (Charlotte, NC)



Vienna Pres. volunteers jump rope in San Simon.

- 23 people from St. Luke's Presbyterian Church (almost double the size of their team last year!) in Dunwoody, GA poured a concrete floor for a church in Valldolid, Yucatan.
- 17 people from Northminster Presbyterian Church in Tucson, AZ put a large new roof on a church in Sacabchen, Campeche.
- 18 youth and adults from Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC poured a large new floor for the dining hall at VIM.
- 14 people from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC put 2 new roofs on a church and

continued on page 7

continued from page 6

home in Citilcum, Yucatan.

- 23 people from Vienna Presbyterian Church in Vienna, VA poured a driveway, hall, and multipurpose court for a church in San Simon, Yucatan.
- 27 people from First Presbyterian Church in Hickory, NC roofed the church in Komchen, Yucatan.



Members of the First Pres. Team from Charlotte test out the benches they made for VIM.

“We had great fellowship with the youth at VIM and were again impressed with the leadership of Isaac and Juanita, [the directors].”

- Rich Neidinger, First Pres. Church (Charlotte, NC)

- 17 people from Gettysburg Presbyterian Church in Gettysburg, PA built a roof for church classrooms in Kancab, Yucatan and ran an eyeglasses ministry for villagers.



Combined Trip leads to Multiplied Blessings


- Ken Skodiak, Pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church (Tucson, AZ)

Two college groups joined together from Northminster Presbyterian and Valley Presbyterian Churches in Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona to put a roof on the second floor of a church in San Antonio, Campeche. We ran a VBS every afternoon for about 100 children and their families.



to participate in the services even with the language barrier. It was wonderful to see how God is using the people of the Emmanuel Presbyterian Church in San Antonio to build his kingdom. How amazing it is to work on a roof with the men and women of the church knowing they are taking time away from family and even work. To share trail

What an incredible experience as we received so much love and hospitality from the people of the church and the town. What a joy it was to worship twice in the church and to be asked

mix and Coke together and wonderful laughs and sweat in the hot and humid Yucatan sun. Once again this trip was a highlight for our college ministry. 

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

A slice of the Action

Newsletter ISSUE 12, Fall 2015

Friends of Accion, Inc. is a U.S. 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, which supports the work of Acción Ministries in Mexico.

www.friendsofaccion.org

This holiday season, please use the enclosed envelope to give generously.

