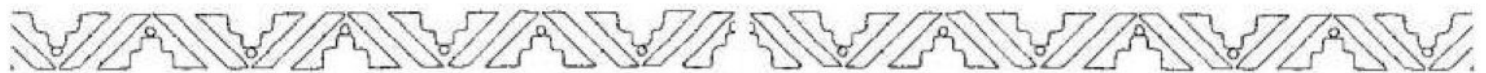




A Slice of the Action



Letter from the Director: It's All About Jesus

Dear Friends,

As the summer went by, I had a great opportunity to work with my family. To see Andre, Maya and Pathy alongside me, working with concrete, translating, helping me drive (Andre), it brought to my heart what I can only describe as pure joy!

As the summer went on, there was a song that I just couldn't get out of my head. It was a song by the music group Casting Crowns, the name is "Only Jesus". In the chorus, there is a phrase that really hit home:

"I don't want to leave a legacy. I don't want them to remember me. Only Jesus."

Acción, has built more than 500 churches throughout the Yucatan Peninsula, not even one of them has the name Dorantes or Acción's logo, because as the song reminded me, "it's all about Jesus."

The apostle Paul says it best: "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

The song kept me going, it kept me focused, it reminded me that it is all about Jesus, not about me, my legacy "Only Jesus"!

Looking forward to 2020 and beyond, we want to keep following Jesus in the Yucatan. And I believe Jesus is leading us to expand our education ministry by building a

new women's dormitory in Merida. I hope you'll read more about our women's "Casa Estudiantil Merida" (Merida Student Home) in this newsletter. And then I hope you'll give your support to families in Mexico with a donation today and a pledge for the future. Because our dream is to lift families out of poverty, one son or daughter at a time.

In Christ,

Oscar R. Dorantes, Director of Acción Ministries



The Dorantes Family visiting a Mayan ruin: Pathy, Andre, Oscar, and Maya.

Board Member Spotlight: Rev. David Wright



Dave, in his natural habitat at Gettysburg Presbyterian Church

I began leading mission trips to the Yucatan with Acción in the mid-80's, and have continued to do so with three different churches. Back then we came for two weeks and worked in two villages! I have been privileged to see the Merida Student House envisioned and developed, and then the same for the Mayan Children's Village.

I am now excited about the new Merida Student House for women! I have served on the Acción board for several years, and continue to be impressed by how far Acción can stretch the peso to do good work furthering the work of God's kingdom in the Yucatan. I hope you'll support this work in any way that you can- by visiting the Yucatan with a mission group, by financially supporting the work, or by supporting the work of the board with time and talent.



Dave, in his other natural habitat—Mexico.



Churches Answer God's Call to Mission

This past summer a group of young adults from our church journeyed to Citilcum, Mexico where we had the opportunity to partner with Acción Ministries to support the construction of a local church. We also had the opportunity to support that church's Vacation Bible School for the community's children. We loved our experience, and everyone found that it opened their eyes to God's call to missional work. Through our experience we not only served and built, but we also had the opportunity to expand our sense of God's presence and work in the world – all the while building great and lasting connections with our neighbors in Mexico.

- Ian Clark, Pastoral Resident at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC)



Ian (standing on the left holding a little girl) and the Covenant PC Mission Team pose with their new friends in Citilcum to show off their church construction work.



LEFT: Vienna Presbyterian Church volunteers pass concrete buckets. RIGHT: John and Marna Morgan visit with women from Tekax dressed in colorful Mayan huipils.

Your Donations at Work and Play in Acción's Homes for Education

Students work hard in school, but it's not all chores and homework at the Mayan Children's Village. Sometimes they also get to go on fun field trips! In October, they all went to a cenote and visited Chichen Itza to connect with their Mayan heritage.



Students from the Mayan Children's Village visit a Mayan ruin



LEFT: CEM resident, Josue Puch Chan, graduated with a Computer Engineering degree. He says "I am very grateful first to God and to each person who helps in CEM. God bless you!"
RIGHT: It takes many hands (and vegetables) to feed all these students!

Becas is the word for scholarships in Spanish, and it also stands for our scholarship program "Building Educational Chances through American Sponsors." Full scholarships are \$140/month or \$1,680/year. Partial scholarships are also welcome!

You can sign up on our website to give a BECAS scholarship or mail a note and a check in the enclosed envelope.

Student Spotlight: Carta Pech Cocom



Carta, ready for another day at school.

I'm from the town of Pac-Chen, Quintana Roo. I'm 17 years old, and I'm in my 5th semester of high school. I'll graduate in 2020. I'm part of the Villa Infantil Maya (VIM - Mayan Children's Village). Since I began high school, I've lived at VIM. Where I'm from there's an Elementary school, but the only way to get to high school is to ride in a taxi - an impossible expense for my parents.

Since I was little, I have dreamed of finishing high school, but for my family, the cost of tuition would be too much of a sacrifice.

The years passed and it was time for me to leave my town if I was going to attend high school. It was then that VIM became my refuge and my strength. My parents and I did not know the hand that was reaching out to help us, providing a scholarship to make this possible. Now I know that my dreams are coming true thanks to my parents, my BECAS sponsors, the VIM Directors, and Acción Ministries.

I want to continue following my dreams, and reach even farther toward a degree at a university in Merida. Just like when I began my studies at VIM, I have fears and doubts But I know that God directs people's actions and he will move in your life and mine.

I'm thankful for the honor of attending high school. I hope and pray that I am able to continue onto university at the new Acción women's dorm in Merida.

Smart Girls in Mexico Need YOU!

With your help, Acción plans to open a new Merida Student Home for Women in Fall 2020!

In Mexico, some students don't have schools in their remote villages. That's why Acción's Mayan Children's Village (Villa Infantil Maya- VIM) offers free room and board to students while they attend middle and high schools. Check out our Student Spotlight on Carta to see the awesome impact you have through VIM!

Some of these dedicated high school students may then qualify by exams for tuition-free university. But they still can't afford to live in the city and attend college.

Since 1995, Acción's Men's CEM (Casa Estudiantil Merida—Merida Student House) has been providing room and board in a Christian environment for young men to attend the good universities in Merida. **Now, we want young women to have this same opportunity! And we know you do too!**

The problem is that our current donations barely cover the operations of our Homes for Education: the Mayan Children's Village and the Men's Student House.

That's where you come in!

Prompted by the Acción leaders in Mexico and trusting in God, we've started a campaign for 5-year pledges of new operating funds to open Women's Student House. Your pledge will enable one full class of high school students reach their dreams of receiving a college degree.



2019 students from VIM graduate from high school

Individual or church pledges are needed in addition to current giving, so that our existing Homes for Education can continue to flourish.

By January 31, 2020, we hope to reach the campaign goal of \$24,000 per year pledged for five years. That's the budget for Women's CEM, including rent for a separate facility.

We are happy to announce that we are about half-way there, with \$13,100 per year already pledged from generous donors. But **we need YOU!** You or your church can mail your check and pledge to Friends of Accion at the address below.

If your generous pledges exceed that budget, we will be able to make additional improvements at our other Homes for Education, so don't hold back! Pray for God to bless this ministry and send questions or email pledges to friendsofaccion@gmail.com.

Friends of Accion, Inc.

c/o Covenant Presbyterian Church
1000 E. Morehead St.
Charlotte, NC 28204-2813

FriendsofAccion@gmail.com
www.friendsofaccion.org

Rich Neidinger (Board President)
704-892-8499
Stacy Lynch (Work Teams)
704-408-0678



Your Gift to Acción Makes Mountaintop Experiences

We hope you'll get to travel to Mexico and see Acción in action if you haven't already. But we know that may not be possible. This newsletter gives you a glimpse into the great things that are happening in Mexico. Every church mission trip and every day at our Homes for Education, lives are being touched.

What is ALWAYS possible is for you to have a very real impact on what we're doing. Every student who gets to go to school. Every family who can attend church in a building with a roof. Every child who hears about Jesus in a VBS skit. These life changing experiences are all possible because of your generosity. Thanks for going to Mexico, in one way or another!



Friends of Accion, Inc., supporting

Acción Ministries
Improving lives in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula