



COVID-19 AND OUR MEXICAN FRIENDS

Thank God that our student facilities have been blessed with no outbreaks so far, since that would require closing for a couple of weeks.

Isaac & Juanita, VIM Directors, recovered from cases in July. When VIM was closed and without students this summer, the neighboring town of Ignacio Zaragosa was hit hard with COVID, including staff at VIM.

Accion Leaders, Oscar and Roger have had relatives with serious cases of COVID, though their immediate families and Thelma and Oscar Sr. have been staying safe and healthy.

Pray for God to continue to bless the students at VIM and CEM and all of our Accion staff.

A Slice of the Action

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Relief for COVID and Hurricanes

Emergency aid is the focus of Accion’s ministry to help Mayan villagers in 2020. In this time of COVID-19 and relentless storms, the need is great as families were hurt by the falling economy, flooding began in early summer, and hurricanes piled on this fall. Thanks to the generosity of stalwart churches and many of you, Accion was able to provide four months of relief in June through September. Accion distributed over \$20,000, mostly for “food boxes” to struggling families, along with a small amount of direct aid to over a dozen

pastors whose congregations have been unable to support them in this time. So far, a total of 755 food boxes have been delivered to seven villages, where church elders distribute them to the community.

Unfortunately, October storms were devastating as Gamma and Delta combined

early in the month and Zeta hit hard in late October. Villagers have lost crops, livestock, and endure more flooding. We are calling for more donations for hurricane relief. In addition to normal support of Accion, could you and/or your church also send relief funds? Each food box costs about \$25 and is greatly appreciated!



Food boxes at a church in Chenché de las Torres

Students still access education at CEM and VIM

Even during the pandemic, Accion facilities still provide food, housing, and a caring environment where students can attend middle school through college. The focus is on enabling continuing students to finish their schooling, instead of bringing in new students to communal living under this virus threat. This means that Accion has post-

poned the opening of a new facility for Women to attend college (Women’s CEM) with plans to open Fall 2021. Donations for Women’s CEM are being saved to enable making it a reality. In our current facilities, masks and social distancing are expected. Young men are living at the Merida Student’s Home (CEM) while attending university, whether

classes are in-person, remote, or hybrid. The internet access there is critical. At the Mayan Children’s Village (VIM), students are attending school on alternating day shifts, staying overnight when necessary for logistics or internet. Staff are doing more trips to home villages since many cannot afford the transportation.

Work Teams in COVID times

While we are all heartbroken that so many work team trips to the Yucatan have been cancelled because of the COVID-19 concerns, we are hopeful that things will return to some sense of normalcy in 2021. Due to the changing state of the pandemic, that is worsening at the moment, Oscar, Roger, and the FOA Board would like to wait until April to decide if 2021 trips will be

possible and under exactly what protocols. We are especially hopeful for Fall 2021 trips, understanding the lead time necessary in organizing trips. We are working on plans for social distancing, limiting community interactions, and health precautions. For example, group size of 15 to 20 is best for utilizing 50% capacity on buses. Let Stacy Lynch and Oscar Dorantes know if

you would like to discuss tentative plans for a trip.

In 2020, we are grateful for donations that have allowed for a small amount of construction without usual work teams in the village of Yaax Chel and in Accion facilities, including new windows in CEM and a new equipment storage shed.

“There is a Mayan (Yucatecan) expression that means thank you: “Nib O’olal,” but it goes deeper than a simple thank you. It means that one is sharing part of one’s soul. So in the act of giving, the Mayan believe that you were not only giving something material, but you were sharing part of your soul.”

Here at Accion Ministries we would like to tell you Nib O’olal; thank you for sharing part of your soul.”
Oscar R. Dorantes



Friends of Accion board meeting by Zoom with Oscar and Roger, November 7, 2020

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Please consider a donation to Friends of Accion to the address shown on the left or online through PayPal at friendsofaccion.org. You can also find us on Facebook and Instagram @friendsofaccion.

“During the time that I have spent here in VIM, I have enjoyed the atmosphere among the students who stay in here. We all form a family with different ways of thinking, with different dreams sometimes a little crazy. We do not know if we will get to achieve them. Truly I really appreciate what my parents and you do for all of us. Thanks for what you do. Many of us will go far. Your support allows me to study in school. Otherwise I could not do so since I live 80km from here.”

Bryan Ulises Angulo Caamal, Fall 2019