

Baja California, Mexico Mission Trip
Highland-Augusta Mission Community
Central Valley Mission Community
Shenandoah Presbytery of Virginia
July 15-21, 2007

Highland-Augusta and Central Valley Mission Communities once again generously sponsored a one-week mission trip to Baja California, Mexico in July 2007. This was the eighth consecutive year and ninth trip that Shenandoah Presbytery has made to Colonia Vicente Guerrero, approximately 200 miles south of San Diego, CA.

The team of 60 people comprised of members from 17 congregations built four houses for needy Oaxacan Indian farm laborers. The teams received profiles of the families about two months before the trip, allowing congregations to know and pray about the families they would be supporting through their teams. Relationships are stressed as the most important part of the mission, both with the Oaxacans and the missionaries at the Local mission base, IDT, and with other members of the team. Through this continued mission work we have seen strong relationships develop between team members and families they have built homes for in past years, as visiting old friends in the colonias is a highlight for many returning team members. Team members have also built long-term and lasting friendships with the missionaries who live and work in Mexico.

Living in shacks often built of tarpaper, plastic sheeting, and flattened cardboard boxes, and nearly always with a dirt floor, the Oaxacans are exposed to the elements and bacteria in the soil, with no chance of keeping their homes or themselves clean. The houses we construct, though not the traditional houses we know, are nonetheless very nice wooden structures built on a concrete slab. With the ability to customize each house according to family wants and needs with two, three or four rooms, the houses provide the flexibility to have a kitchen and separate bedrooms, with an option for a family room.

Each house measures 20 x 22 feet. The cost of a house in 2007 was \$3,250. Paint, used mattresses, used furniture, household items, groceries, an outhouse, a bathhouse, and lumber for building beds for the families are additional expenses on each built site and this year averaged nearly \$1,600 per build.

The builds began on Monday afternoon and finished up late Thursday afternoon, though most teams returned on Friday morning for finishing touches and a final visit with their families and a last goodbye. Each build team had 15 members, with roughly equal numbers of youth and adults. Because relationships are stressed as the most important part of the trip, a central focus of the work was to get to know the family members, interact with them and show the love of Jesus Christ. Games and activities with the children included coloring and drawing, word games, soccer, flying kites, and lots of piggy-back rides. Adult family members and older children often helped the builders construct and paint their new homes. Few adult males were present during the builds; several of the families were single mothers, or the husband or older male children were working in the fields or lived in the U.S.

Monday night was special as many of the team members banded together to take 55 Oaxacan family members to the circus in town. None of the Oaxacans had ever been to the circus before; many did not even know what a circus was. Drinks, snacks, clowns, and aerial acts kept everyone entertained, the adults as well as the children. It served as a wonderful ice-breaker for our team members to get to know the families better, and several families from past years were our guests as well, creating a time to renew old friendships.

Several outreach opportunities during the week to spread the love of Christ included trips to local Spanish and indigenous churches, rehabilitation centers, and a worker camp. Soccer jerseys in blue and burgundy donated by a local graphic arts company and carried to Mexico by the team were met with huge grins and many "high fives" at a rehab center we visited. A rousing soccer game ensued, followed by testimonials around an

open campfire which made for a meaningful evening for all. At another rehab center, team members were exposed to tearful testimonials of the love and power of Jesus Christ and were awed at the residents' mastery of the Bible through a spirited game of Bible Trivia. T-shirts, some of the 1,500 carried by the team to Mexico and donated by the same graphic arts company, were coveted prizes in Bible Trivia. Team members also had an opportunity to tour the local orphanage and mission.

Three hundred sixty-three (363) people have now gone on the Baja Mission trips which began at Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church in 2000. The project has grown to include members of 30 congregations, and we have built 23 houses and two schools. We have also built an addition to another house, rehabilitated a third schoolhouse, re-roofed another house, and installed a water purification system. Several other miscellaneous projects have been completed at the mission base and in the colonias over the years. The Lord has blessed us with safe travels and changed the lives of many of our team members as well as the Oaxacan Indians we serve.

All team members are responsible for personal travel costs within the U.S. – travel to and from San Diego, hotels, meals, ground transportation, airport parking, etc. Money raised through fund-raising, grants, and donations covers the cost of the houses; extra building materials, paint, etc.; mattresses, used furniture, household goods, clothing and groceries for the families; and the \$225 fee to cover lodging, meals and rental van travel in Mexico. This year the Leadership Team made the decision to allow others who are not members of Shenandoah Presbytery to join the team, with the stipulation that they pay the travel/meals/lodging fee in Mexico of \$225/person. Under these conditions, we were joined by a Catholic and a Brethren, adding a new dimension to our relationship-building experiences. We are grateful to all those organizations, congregations and individuals who provided support.

Funds over and above what was necessary to support the trip were raised, and those funds were taken to Mexico and distributed. On our final night at the mission base, the full team of 60 met to discuss ways in which the remaining funds should be used, and after prayerfully considering all the needs brought to the attention of the team, decisions were reached in a collaborative atmosphere. Those benefiting included: six different missionaries; an organization which purchases building lots for needy people; a day care center; a scholarship fund to send needy children to school; mission kitchen staff; and the orphanage. Other "private" donations from several individual congregational teams went to assist other missionaries and indigenous families.

Because the build teams over the past five years have been comprised of members from multiple congregations, the trip affords the opportunity for everyone to make new friends within our own Presbytery and local area. God truly is working his purpose out as strangers in our local community come together in the name of our Lord to travel across lines drawn in the sand to minister to those who have so little in the way of basic shelter, needs and material goods and in many cases, do not know Our Lord. Out of the love and caring of all who participate directly and those who provide generous donations, relationships have been forged, lives changed, shelters built, the love of Christ known.

Yes, we are making a difference!!

--Mac Sterrett, Augusta Stone Presbyterian Church
Fort Defiance, Virginia
macsterrett@comcast.net
August 2007

Leadership Team:

Dan Williams, Staunton Second Presbyterian
Doug Sensabaugh, Massanutten Presbyterian
Rhonda Richie, Olivet Presbyterian
Dan Woodworth, Waynesboro First Presbyterian
Mac Sterrett, Augusta Stone Presbyterian



**2007 Baja Mission Team
Shenandoah Presbytery
Highland-Augusta Mission
Community
Central Valley Mission Community**

Last	First	Church
Crawford	Charlie	Augusta Stone
Crawford	Vina	Augusta Stone
Greene	Sandy	Augusta Stone
Rankin	Rachael	Augusta Stone
Sterrett	Mac	Augusta Stone
Wade	Matt	Augusta Stone
Von Oeyen	Hannah	Bethany
Damico	Barbara	Bethel
Damico	Larry	Bethel
Damico	Lily	Bethel
Damico	Olivia	Bethel
Folsom	Benjamin	Bethel
Folsom	Kayla	Bethel
Heizer	Andrew	Bethel
Hedrick	Lisa	Covenant
Henderson	Elly	Covenant
Henderson	Kathy	Covenant
Keyser	Vicki	Covenant
Dill	Naomi	Goshen Pres.
Genet	Missy	Goshen Pres.
Haney	Isaac	Goshen Pres.
Haney	John	Goshen Pres.
Haney	Alex	Goshen Pres.
Haney	Laura	Goshen Pres.
Enriquez	Frank	Hermitage
Enriquez	Mark	Hermitage
Sensabaugh	Doug	Massanutten
Sensabaugh	Lindsay	Massanutten
Baker	Don	Moorefield
Crites	Kathi	Moorefield
Fraley	Zoe	Moorefield
Goodall	Blair	Moorefield
Goodall	Mark	Moorefield
Shockey	Blake	Moorefield
Welton	Alexander	Moorefield
Williams	Mary	Moorefield
Pettit	Connall	Mossy Creek
Richie	Rhonda	Olivet
Smiley	Jessica	Olivet
Brown	Carolyn	Staunton 2nd
Brown	Frank	Staunton 2nd
Radoiu	Mick	St. John the Evangelist
Clemmer	Betty	Staunton 2nd
Clemmer	Willis	Staunton 2nd
Easley	Andrew	Staunton 2nd
Ridle	Bob	Staunton 2nd
Williams	Dan	Staunton 2nd

Williams	Jonathan
Bostic	Cindy
Bostic	John
Bern	Alexandra
Bern	Arthur
Bern	Mark
Eisenhower	Elise
Woodworth	Dan

Fauber	Anna
Farthing	Candace
Farthing	Stan
Hannah	Rebecca
Hannah	Robert

Staunton 2nd
Trinity
Trinity
Wayb 1st
Wayb 1st
Wayb 1st
Wayb 1st
Wayb 1st
White Hill Church of the Brethern
Zetta
Zetta
Zetta
Zetta

Baja Mission Trip 2007

Receipts

Funds handled by:

Presbytery Augusta
Stone

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Total Donation</u>		
Andy Easley	\$1,000.00		1,000.00
Anna Fauber	\$225.00		225.00
Augusta Stone PC	\$5,309.00	500.00	4,809.00
Bethel PC	\$3,850.00		3,850.00
Central Valley Mission Community	\$4,340.45	4,340.45	
Covenant PC	\$500.00	500.00	
Don Juan's Mexican Restaurant Numero Dos	\$900.00		900.00
Doug Sensabaugh	\$500.00	500.00	
Goshen PC	\$1,586.00		1,586.00
Highland-Augusta Mission Community	\$3,000.00	3,000.00	
Individual contributions	\$200.00		200.00
Lou Ann Lynch-Enriquez	\$500.00	500.00	
Mick Radoiu	\$225.00	225.00	
Moorefield PC	\$5,800.00	5,800.00	
Mossy Creek PC	\$600.00	600.00	
Olivet PC	\$2,400.00		2,400.00
Parish of the Pastures	\$1,324.00	1,324.00	
Rocky Spring PC	\$100.00		100.00
Shenandoah Presbytery - Moffett Fund	\$6,000.00	6,000.00	
Spencers/Bridgewater PC	\$100.00		100.00
Staunton Second PC	\$2,000.00	2,000.00	
Synod of the Mid-Atlantic	\$500.00	500.00	
Trinity PC	\$300.00	300.00	
Union PC	\$500.00	500.00	
Waynesboro First PC	\$4,425.00	100.00	4,325.00
Zetta PC	<u>\$337.52</u>	337.52	
Total	\$46,521.97	\$27,026.97	\$19,495.00

Grand total receipts \$46,521.97

**Baja Mission Trip 2007
Disbursements**

Funds accounted for below **do not include** participants' costs for travel, meals and lodging in the U.S., paid by participants out of personal funds

Additional monies were taken and distributed in Mexico by many of the congregational teams. Those decisions were made by the individual church team members and are in addition to the "pooled" funds listed below. Several thousand dollars were donated quietly in this manner and are not reflected in these numbers.

For:		
Construction costs: Adrian's Building Supplies	\$205.00	Construction costs (extras: lumber)
Construction costs: IDT	\$1,200.00	Construction costs (extras: lumber, mattresses, paint, extra windows, whirlybirds, outhouses, etc.)
Construction costs: IDT	\$60.00	Construction costs (extras: lumber, mattresses, paint, extra windows, whirlybirds, outhouses, etc.)
Construction costs: IDT	\$100.00	Construction costs (extras: lumber, mattresses, paint, extra windows, whirlybirds, outhouses, etc.)
Construction costs: IDT	\$120.00	Construction costs (whirlybirds)
Construction costs: IDT	\$100.00	Donation to IDT staff for installation of two whirlybirds after we left
Construction costs: YWAM (Youth With a Mission)	\$13,000.00	Cost of 4 houses (3,250x4)
Donation to "Give a Little, Give a Lot"	\$2,700.00	Organization that buys lots for needy Oaxacan families so they can build a house
Donation to IDT - Kitchen staff	\$75.00	Gift for kitchen staff
Donation to IDT - Scholarship Fund	\$600.00	Administered by IDT for Oaxacan children to attend school
Donation to Julie Tate (YWAM)	\$2,000.00	Donation to support Julie and her ministry (she was our YWAM leader)
Donation to La Huerta Guarderia	\$1,000.00	Day care center in Trique run by IDT missionary (\$900 of this \$\$ raised at Don Juan's Restaurant)
Donation to missionary	\$100.00	Christian, missionary who lives in Los Misioneros & led evening outreach to Nueva Vita
Donation to missionary	\$50.00	Gerard & Denise (IDT), purchase load of water
Donation to missionary	\$50.00	Les (IDT), for providing firewood for beach communion service
Donation to missionary	\$1,000.00	Elia, multi-lingual Oaxacan missionary who conducts Bible studies in work camps
Donation to missionary	\$4,000.00	Gerard & Denise, missionary family with IDT
Donation to Orphanage	\$25.00	Donation for their assistance with team medical issue
Donation to YWAM (Youth With a Mission)	\$80.00	Friday dinner at restaurant for 8 missionaries we invited as our guests
Family expenses (four Oaxacan families)	\$6,321.97	Family expenses on all four build sites for used furniture; clothing; shoes; housewares; school supplies, etc.
Family expenses: evening at the circus	\$235.00	Admission & snacks for 55 Oaxacan children/adults
Participant fees: YWAM (Youth With a Mission)	\$13,500.00	Participant fees (60x225)
	\$46,521.97	
Grand total disbursements:	\$46,521.97	
Construction costs (total)	\$14,785.00	
Donations (total)	\$11,680.00	
Family expenses (total)	\$6,556.97	
Participant fees (total)	<u>\$13,500.00</u>	
	\$46,521.97	