

Baja California, Mexico Mission Trips
Highland-Augusta Mission Community
Central Valley Mission Community
Shenandoah Presbytery of Virginia
July 16-22 and July 23-29, 2006

Highland-Augusta and Central Valley Mission Communities sponsored two one-week mission trips to Baja California, Mexico in July 2006. Both trips were to the same area (Colonia Vicente Guerrero, approximately 200 miles south of San Diego, CA), and the two teams built six houses for needy Oaxacan Indian farm laborers. In contrast to earlier years, this year all the houses were “double builds” (twice as large and twice the cost of a “single” build). Each house measured 20 x 22 feet and consisted of three or four rooms on a concrete slab. The cost of a double build is \$3,000. Paint, used mattresses, used furniture, household items, groceries, an outhouse, a bathhouse, and lumber for building beds for the families are additional expenses for each family and generally run approximately \$1,200 – \$1,500 per build.

Members of Presbytery's Living Waters Team also assessed the existing water purification equipment installed in 2004 to prepare for a system upgrade to be done, hopefully next summer, after the day care center currently under construction is completed.

During the week of July 16-22, a team of 61 people representing 13 congregations built four houses. During the week of July 23-29, 29 people representing five congregations built two houses. Profiles of the families provided to the teams the week before the trip indicated the family sizes were 5, 5, 8, 11, 12 and 12 members, but as the teams learned while on site, as many as 14 or 15, and perhaps more, were planning to live in several of the new houses.

The builds began on Monday afternoon and finished up either late Thursday afternoon or Friday morning. Each build team had approximately 15 members, with roughly equal numbers of youth and adults. Relationships were stressed as the most important part of the trip. At each build site, 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 home. 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.

Several outreach opportunities during the week included trips to local Spanish and indigenous churches, rehabilitation centers, and a worker camp to spread the love of Christ. Many team members also toured the local orphanage and mission, and several participated in a mange vaccination clinic held in one of the colonias to treat diseased dogs.

Over 300 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 27 congregations, and we have built 10 single houses, an addition to an existing house, 9 double houses, 2 schools, re-habbed a third school, 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.

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
August 2006

What they lived in before we arrived:



What we built for them:



Participants, July 16-22

Last Name	First Name	Church
Sterrett	Mac	Augusta Stone
von Oeyen	Bob	Bethany
von Oeyen	Sherry	Bethany
von Oeyen	Hannah	Bethany
Damico	Barbara	Bethel
Damico	Larry	Bethel
Damico	Lily	Bethel
Damico	Olivia	Bethel
Burke	Cheryl	Bridgewater
Burke	Christopher	Bridgewater
Eichlin	Jessica	Bridgewater
Gamble	Jyl	Bridgewater
Gamble	Jacquelyn	Bridgewater
Gamble	Jennifer	Bridgewater
Leigh	Hannah	Bridgewater
Simon	Jacob	Bridgewater
Sommer	Phil	Bridgewater
Sommer	Kathleen	Bridgewater
Walker	Paige	Bridgewater
Walker	Nicole	Bridgewater
Walker	Ragan	Bridgewater
Walker	Jeff	Bridgewater
Simmons	Howard	Harrisonburg
Corbin	Reba	Hermitage
Enriquez	Frank	Hermitage
Enriquez	Mark	Hermitage
Raines	Tiffany	Hermitage
Deeds	Becca	Millboro
Deeds	Gus	Millboro
Haney	John	Millboro
Haney	Isaac	Millboro
Haney	Laura	Millboro
Haney	Olivia	Millboro
Haney	Joseph	Millboro
Haney	J Alexander	Millboro
Baker	Don	Moorefield
Joseph	Hunter	Mossy Creek
Joseph	Janet	Mossy Creek
Pettit	Ann	Mossy Creek
Pettit	Connall	Mossy Creek
Smith	Pamela	Mossy Creek
Switzer	Darrell	Mossy Creek
Switzer	Erin	Mossy Creek
Richie	Rhonda	Olivet
Smiley	Jessica	Olivet
Smiley	Nina	Olivet
Clemmer	Willis	Staunton 2nd
Clemmer	Betty	Staunton 2nd
Easley	Andrew	Staunton 2nd
Nuckols	Michael	Staunton 2nd

Ridle	Bob	Staunton 2nd
Snyder	Patricia	Staunton 2nd
Williams	Dan	Staunton 2nd
Williams	Jonathan	Staunton 2nd
Bern	Mark	Waynesboro 1st
Bern	Arthur	Waynesboro 1st
Woodworth	Dan	Waynesboro 1st
Farthing	Stan	Zetta
Farthing	Candace	Zetta
Hannah	Robert	Zetta
Hannah	Rebecca	Zetta

Participants, July 23-29

Last Name	First Name	Church
Crawford	Vina	Augusta Stone
Crawford	Charlie	Augusta Stone
Sterrett	Mac	Augusta Stone
Daniels	Laura	Berryville
Hall	Chelsey	Elkton
Hall	David	Elkton
Dobroth	Rachel	Massanutten
Dobroth	Dorothy	Massanutten
Dobroth	Dale	Massanutten
Green	Linda	Massanutten
Green	Colin	Massanutten
Green	Shawn	Massanutten
Green	Clancy	Massanutten
Haines	Benjamin	Massanutten
Holbrook	Mary Beth	Massanutten
Jones	Joshua	Massanutten
Jones	Julianne	Massanutten
Jones	Jacqueline	Massanutten
Jordan	Ann	Massanutten
Painter	Christopher	Massanutten
Palmer	Ashley	Massanutten
Reed	Chelsie	Massanutten
Sensabaugh	Doug	Massanutten
Sensabaugh	Zach	Massanutten
Sensabaugh	Marcus	Massanutten
Sensabaugh	Lindsay	Massanutten
Toothman	Stephanie	Massanutten
Toothman	Mark	Massanutten
Props	Jennifer	Mossy Creek