



A Slice of the Action



Letter from the Director: The Extra Mile

Hola friends,

Another summer has gone by, but for my daughter Maya (photo right) and for me it was a very special one. We had the chance to work in my mother's home-town: Becal, Campeche. On the last evening, the pastor of the church

there invited me to preach. It was a very emotional moment for me. My own great-grandfather Benjamin (a native Mayan man) helped to build that very same church 88 years ago. According to one of the elders of the church, it took them twelve years to complete the building. At that time, they used to bring three rocks per day on a wagon pulled by a horse. I cannot imagine the joy all those Mayan men and women felt when their sanctuary was finally completed. I bet they had a huge and joyful fiesta that day.

Many times I wonder: What was the message that my great-grandfather heard? What changed his mind? What



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Planned Giving	2
2018 Work Teams	3
Board Spotlight	4
U.S. Visit	4
Sewing at VIM	5
Student Spotlight	5
A Mission Story	6
Act for Acción	6



Letter from the Director (continued)

changed his heart? Once he heard that gospel message from the missionaries, his life was changed, his motivation changed and he was willing to go the extra mile.

The work in Becal this summer was exhausting. We built a patio and a roof, and to do that we mixed 90 bags of cement (not counting the sand and gravel that we hauled). On the last night we held a church celebration on the new patio. In the midst of the joy we felt, what brought the greatest joy to our hearts was seeing all the VBS kids arrive. They now had a place where they could continue gathering. Every afternoon they will now be able



to play soccer on that same patio instead of playing on a muddy dirt yard as they used to do.

During the summer work here in the Mayaland many of you

have felt that you cannot go on anymore. There is the heat, the humidity, the loud sound of the mixer, and the never ending bags of concrete to mix. Yet many of you continue the work, and many continue to support our VIM and CEM programs.

Just as my great-grandfather 88 years ago worked for the love of the gospel, for the love of the church, for the love of the people, I thank you for putting into “Acción” (action) the words of Christ, “... Go the extra mile.”

“Once he heard that gospel message from the missionaries, his life was changed”

Thank you for going the extra mile with us,

Oscar R. Dorantes
Pastor and Executive Director



Win-Win? Let's begin.

Did You Know?

Friends of Accion has a brokerage account where we can receive gifts of stock. A gift of stock may in some cases result in significant tax savings in addition to benefitting our friends in the Yucatan. Shares of stock, bonds, or mutual funds can be transferred during your lifetime or as a part of planned giving.

Planned giving is the terminology applied to gifts made to a charitable institution generally, but not necessarily, at the time of death. It ensures that your stewardship continues to help the mission of Accion Ministries. Questions?

Please email Friends of Accion Treasurer, Caryn Overbey at: caryn.overbey@gmail.com



2018 Work Teams

2018 has been a great year for work teams. We've had nine teams scheduled this year. Two teams went last spring to escape the chilly temperatures in the US: Northminster Presbyterian from Tucson, Arizona and First Lutheran Church from Fargo, North Dakota. Summer is our most popular season for work teams. Five teams went this summer: two teams from Covenant Presbyterian in Charlotte, NC, one from

"Each afternoon we welcomed 60-70 children for VBS...What a joy it was each day to be in the midst of such organized chaos."

- Lenwood Collins, Westminster Presbyterian Church (Greensboro, NC)

Westminster Presbyterian in Greensboro, NC, one from Vienna Presbyterian in Virginia, and one from Gettysburg Presbyterian in Pennsylvania. This fall we welcomed Hopewell Presbyterian in Huntersville, NC and First Presbyterian in Charlotte, NC.

Thank you Work Team volunteers!



Board Member Spotlight: Caryn Overbey



Caryn, sitting atop a bench at VIM made by her volunteer team

I am a native of southeastern Kentucky, but I moved to North Carolina for college. I studied economics at Davidson College, then received my MBA from Duke University. My husband, Warren, and I have two daughters, Carlisle (29) and Caroline (27).

After a career in corporate banking, I left the business world to stay home with our children and spent the next 15 years as a parent and active volunteer. I now work part time in music ministry at First Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC.

I first became aware of the work of Acción Ministries when Carlisle went on her first high school mission trip in 2004. In 2006, I joined both daughters as a chaperone on the high school trip to Mexico. We helped complete the sports court at the Mayan Children's Village (VIM). I enjoy finding the our group's initials along the edge of the court when I return to VIM. In 2008, I ended up leading the high school trip to Mexico when we lacked a Youth Ministry leader. In 2015 and 2018, I went on adult mission trips to Mexico.

I have learned from all of my trips, but I have particularly enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with students at VIM. I have great respect for the work of the Acción staff in Mexico and consider them friends.

I joined the board of Friends of Accioon in 2016 as Assistant Treasurer and have served as Treasurer for the last two years.

Mayaland to the Mid-Atlantic

Oscar Dorantes, Jr. and Roger Aviles embarked on a friendraising and fundraising trip to the States last May 2018. They started in Charlotte, NC where they had a fundraiser. About 50 supporters of Acción Ministries came to see their dear friends from Mexico and to get an update about the ministry's important work in the Yucatan. The next stop was Westminster Presbyterian in Greensboro, NC where Oscar and Roger were featured speakers at the church's mission auction.

Oscar and Roger quickly returned to Charlotte to teach Sunday School and to be part of two worship services at First Presbyterian.

While in Charlotte, they met with leaders of churches involved with Acción Ministries and with

prospective churches that may join our efforts in the future. They branched out to have dinner at Hopewell Presbyterian in Huntersville, NC with a work team who is going to the Yucatan this Fall. They also journeyed to Hickory, NC to meet with supporters there. These two had the opportunity to tell Acción's story further north in Gettysburg, PA and Vienna, VA too. The missions committee hosted them at Gettysburg Presbyterian and Oscar spoke at three services at Vienna Presbyterian, VA. The trip was a success! Reconnecting with supporters in the States is an integral part of telling the story of the transformative impact Accion is having on the lives of our Mayan friends in the Yucatan.



Roger gets to know all kinds of influential Americans.

Sewing and Woodworking

In addition to their roles as resident directors of Villa Infantil Maya (VIM), Isaac and Juanita share their time and talents through teaching the students woodworking and sewing. After pieces were sanded and stained by a recent work team from First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, Isaac and three of the students spent the evening installing the shelves in the pantry, with Isaac teaching as he went.



Juanita is an excellent seamstress and works with some of the students sewing shower curtains, school uniforms and other needed items.

If sewing or woodworking are an interest of yours, you may want to consider a donation. Isaac currently has to rent some items for projects. His wishlist for the shop includes a jigsaw, an electric sander and a drill and bits. Juanita would welcome bolts of fabric to make school uniforms for students.



Becas is the word for scholarships in Spanish, and it also stands for our scholarship program “Building Educational Chances through American Sponsors.”

You can sign up to give a BECAS scholarship to a current student online or using our contact info on the cover.

Student Spotlight: José Canché

José Esteban Canché Cauich is a student graduating from engineering school and the Merida Student House (Casa Estudiantil Merida—CEM).



In 2009 I began this dream of my life. First at VIM for 3 years to attend high school, then at CEM to study civil engineering at university. At home my parents and I

were always worried about money, and counting our scarce resources on one hand. But thanks to Acción I was able to have a roof over my head and economic security so I could focus on my studies.

In Merida I found myself in a big city far from home. But CEM provided for all my needs day after day. Taking each step in faith, I followed my path of studies and thanks to God and Acción Ministries, I have arrived where I am today.

Today I am embarking on a new stage in my personal and professional life as a Civil Engineer. Instead of my old fears, I am counting on my hand the new opportunities that await. And today I want to thank every one of you who believed in me and contributed to making my dreams come true. I’ve found infinite reasons to exclaim, “Great things the Lord has done.”



Why We Do What We Do

by Tim & Cathy Kendrick (Members of Covenant Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC)

15 members of Covenant PC left on June 24, 2018 from Charlotte bound for Merida for a week in the town of Becal (known for its Panama hat industry). After shopping for groceries in Merida, we headed for Becal, Campeche and Iglesia Nacional Presbiteriana de Mexico-Getsemani. Oscar Dorantes Jr. was asked to preach at the evening service in front of many family members in the church that his great-grandfather helped start 88 years ago. He delivered an emotional sermon and then we were commissioned to help work with a plant church (Iglesia Estrella de Jacob) several miles away.

After settling into a house for the men and one across the street for the women, we enjoyed dinner and then a good night's sleep on the hammocks. Each morning began with breakfast and a letter from home followed by concrete work, lunch, a siesta and then time with children in the community and crafts with the women. During that time together, we developed a strong bond with the local families, church members, Pastor Jorge, his family and the team from Acción. During our time with the

children, we had limited options for places to play on the church campus.

Our primary goal for the week was to put a floor and roof on a Sunday School class building next to the sanctuary. We had a little extra time



Authors, Tim & Cathy after a hard day's work

so we began working on multi-purpose court in the middle of the church campus. It didn't take long for the children to begin playing soccer and other games on the partially finished court and each day the court got bigger

as we completed additional sections. On our last day, our work took longer than expected, but there was no doubt that we would have to finish the court!

That decision, while tiring, was one of the most rewarding we have ever experienced on an Accion Mission trip. After going back to the houses, cleaning up, having dinner and walking back to the church, we rounded the corner and the entire multi-purpose court was full of chairs and church members, waiting for us to begin the celebration.

There is nothing like seeing the results of our week's work being put to use so quickly. Following comments from our team leader, Nik Van Nort, Pastor Jorge delivered a very special sermon about working together and thanked us for our efforts.

There was no better thanks than seeing the court full with church members followed by children having a better place to play.

This is why we do what we do.



Worshipping with the local church on the multi-purpose floor that the Covenant Pres. Team poured during the week

Ready to Lend a Hand?



In addition to the ideas on the right, check out an alternative gift market at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, NC this Christmas season (For details, contact the church at 336-299-3785). A scholarship or donation to Accion also makes a great gift for that “hard to buy for” person on your list.

You can find a list of all the students at our Mayan Children’s Village (Villa Infantil Maya—VIM) and our Merida Student House (Casa Estudiantil Merida—CEM) on our website: www.friendsofaccion.org Pick a student to sponsor and/or pray for regularly.

If you’d like Oscar or Roger to visit your church or organization, contact us! You can also be an Accion Ambassador and give a presentation at your own church to help us spread the word about the exciting work we’re doing in Mexico. We have materials available to make it easy for you.



Ways You Can **ACT NOW FOR ACCION**

There are so many ways you can support
Accion at home or abroad



1 GIVE A YEAR END GIFT

Use the enclosed envelope to
send in your check to "Friends of
Accion" and help us do more!



2 VISIT US IN MEXICO

Join your church group or start
your own mission trip to Mexico.



3 SPONSOR A STUDENT

Look on our website or give us a call to join our
"BECAS" student sponsorship program and help more
youth in Mexico attend school (\$1,680/year)

4 HELP OUR BOARD

Our all-volunteer Board of
Directors is always looking
for help with fundraising,
outreach communications,
etc. If you have time and
skills to share, please reach
out to us!



Gracias!

Change Over Time Equals Growth

by Rev. David Wright (Pastor of Gettysburg Presbyterian Church in Gettysburg, PA)

Leading this year's mission trip with the Gettysburg Presbyterian Church was a special one for me. We were assigned to the village of Cantamayec, a village that I had visited with another group over **30 years ago!** In addition to all the good things that happen on a mission trip, it was very meaningful to me to see the positive changes that have taken place in Cantamayec. The standard of living has improved noticeably. When I was there before about 80% of the homes had thatched roofs, with the rest being concrete

block homes. I would estimate that the numbers have now reversed, with most people living in block homes.



David (left) with Accion staffer Oveth Hernandez and Board Member Christine Canaga

On my earlier visit we built the concrete roof on the sanctuary of the church. I remember thinking that they were building a sanctuary way too big for the handful of people who formed the congregation. Now, that sanctuary is full, there are several other buildings on the site, including a new water purification system, and the congregation is thriving! God is at work in the Yucatan, and I am grateful to Acción for the opportunity to share in that work in a small way through our mission trips!

Friends of Accion, Inc.

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

FriendsofAccion@gmail.com

Nik Van Nort (Board President)

704-287-9894

Stacy Lynch (Work Teams)

704-408-0678

www.friendsofaccion.org



Friends of Accion, Inc., supporting

Acción Ministries
Improving lives in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula