



A Slice of the Action

Love in Action

Greetings from the Mayaland!
In the times we are having I have found great comfort in studying and teaching the book of Psalms. It was there that I found a word that caught my attention. The original Hebrew word is *hesed*, it translated as Love, but the meaning goes further, it means mercy, grace, kindness and generosity, a love that continuously flows, it doesn't cease, it is love in action. At Accion, we have felt throughout this challenging times your love in action as you have help us with your prayers and donations.
Thank you for your *hesed*.

Oscar R. Dorantes

WORK TEAMS HAVE RESUMED!

*Work teams resumed in 2022! Among the teams that went was **Northminster Presbyterian Church** in Tucson, Arizona. Here are Pastor Ken Skodiak's thoughts on the experience:*

It's been said that you never know how much you miss something/someone until it/they are gone. That was the case for our church as we journeyed to the Yucatan in 2022 after not being able to participate in a trip for three years because of COVID and its effects on our world and lives.

Our team was smaller than usual, but God blessed us

with great enthusiasm, excitement and energy to get back partnering with Accion, those in our Yucatan village and the project we were given to complete. As in all project's challenges occurred, including some of our team contacting COVID, but still God blessed us with the ability to complete our project, stay healthy and return home.

One of the experiences which we as a church always look forward to is worshipping with our Mayan brothers and sisters. As part of that worship experience, Oscar

Dorantes reminded us that we are not simply building a structure: we are building lives and growing the king-



dom of God. The legacy of Accion will not be the buildings they have built but the lives they have touched and built.

*Rollie Johnson from **First Lutheran Church** in Fargo, North Dakota wrote a reflective piece titled "The Mirror and the Cell Phone" after a recent trip to Mexico. In it, he quoted the thoughts of Emily, one of the high schoolers who was present on the trip:*

"It's like God has taken away our mirrors and cell phones,

and replaced them with the warm, loving and beautiful smiles and hugs of these gorgeous young Mayan children. We are now seeing ourselves through the loving and accepting eyes of these Mayan children. We are loved just as we are. The way God loves us. The way we're supposed to love ourselves."

How incredibly well said!



Merida Student House for Women (Women’s CEM) Update

Despite challenges presented in trying to get the Merida Student House for Women up and running during a global pandemic, we are happy to report that 10 students are currently

enrolled and taking advantage of all that the program has to offer. The creation and operation of a Merida Student House for Women has been a dream of Friends of Accion and Accion Ministries

for a very long time, and we are so grateful to you all for your pledges and prayers in turning that dream into a reality.

Because of your generosity and love, young women who might not otherwise have the opportunity are able to live and study in Merida, be part of a supportive Christian community, and focus on bright futures.

Thanks to all of the people who have put in such hard work to make this happen! We pray for continued success and growth of the Merida Student House for Women, the Merida Student House for Men, and the Mayan Children’s Village as we emerge from the pandemic!



Women’s CEM students

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Moving On: At the end of this year, after 14 years of faithful service acting as Directors of the Mayan Children’s Village, Isaac and Juanita Ricardez will retire to Tres Reyes. In addition, Oveth Hernandez will be leaving Accion and taking his bright smile to Bethel International Christian Academy where he will work as a Chaplain and teacher. The impact all of these individuals have had not only on Accion Ministries but in the lives of numerous children, families, and gringos who came to work along side them, cannot be overstated. We are forever grateful for them and wish God’s blessings upon them in their next adventures!

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

