



Friends of Accion, Inc., supporting the ministries of *Acción* (the Spanish word for “action”),  
Improving lives in Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula.

# A Slice of the Action

## Generations

The first week of January 2023, we had a group of families from the US. The parents were here in the 80’s to help us build a Mayan church with Accion. To see parents bringing their children to experience what they did is something amazing to witness, and it motivates all of the Accion team to continue to do work that Jesus has bestowed upon us “to build his Church”! My parents came to visit us at the work site, and my 77 year old dad had a chance to share how Accion got started. As I saw him speaking, my wife pointed out that in that moment there were three generations: my parents, my wife and me, and my son and daughter — all serving and building. For more than 40 years with your donations, you have helped us to continue to do missions in the Yucatan Peninsula. Thank you and Feliz Navidad!

**Oscar R. Dorantes**

## Costs of Ministry and Work Teams — Update

A double whammy of inflation and exchange rate shift have led to increased costs of operating the student houses and of items for work team projects in villages. The cost per student per month in the student houses is now about \$200 (up from \$140). For a specific example, the price of the high-quality hammock for each work team member has increased from 650 pesos several years ago to 1150 pesos today. Work team leaders can help by increasing the Accion fee to \$600 per participant,

from our current requirement of \$550. Oscar, Roger, and the board will reconsider this fee in early 2024, although we will honor \$550 if previously publicized in recruitment.

Work team leaders should also be aware that most teams purchase several \$40 fans in Mexico for lodging areas and donate them to their hosts. This past summer Accion arranged for locals to safely prepare meals for most of the work team dinners at \$15 per person per

meal. Teams thought this new option went very well and enthusiastically supported the idea.



The bottom line is that FOA really appreciates the generous gifts that support this ministry and donations that can help provide for the future.

## **Covenant goes to YAXCHÉ**

12 brave souls traveled to Yaxche in the June heat



and poured approximately 28 tons of concrete to complete a courtyard for the local church. This courtyard will allow the church to hold meetings and events outdoors. Sleeping in hammocks, eating food prepared by local residents and gathering for

prayer and singing are memories we all hold tight. The experience of a work trip to the Yucatan is like no other. As I explained to one of our “newbies” - This trip fills my soul like nothing else. Accion continues to serve the people in the Yucatan and we were honored to assist them in their mission. —Amy Cathey, *Covenant Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC*

## Success at CEM, Changes at VIM

Both Merida Student Houses (CEM) are going strong with university students. Ten young women are studying mostly chemistry and health fields, with

some business and architecture. Twelve young men are studying fields mostly related to engineering and education, plus nutrition, agronomy, and accounting.



**Women's CEM students**

The Mayan Children's Village (VIM) continues to provide access to quality high school education, now helping day students in addition to those staying overnight during the week. Mexico has expanded the use of television to provide middle and high school instruction. Some rural students find this sufficient and are not coming to VIM. But to be college-ready, students need to attend the quality in-person high school education and need VIM for meals and study including internet access. VIM provides a safe place outside the city of Ignacio Zaragoza that has experienced growth, almost like a wild west gold rush, due to the Mayan Train railway construction including a station at nearby Nuevo Xcán. Pray for the students and staff at all three facilities.

### **Friends of Accion, Inc.**

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### ***Hickory sends two teams!***

First Presbyterian Church Hickory sent a college work team to Yaxche and a youth team to Xocempich this past summer. Both had a fantastic time. The youth were in awe of the people and village of Xocempich. Morning work was rewarding but sometimes exhausting in the heat. We then enjoyed afternoon play with kids in Bible school. The trip to a cenote was especially fun! Evening meals were a great experience where local villagers prepared the food. May God continue to bless our International understanding and cooperation through Accion. — *Heather Davis interview, FPC, Hickory, NC*



I loved going on this trip because of the people I was with, I met, the food, the songs we sang, the work we did, and had a lot of fun. — *Student on Northminster/Valley Presbyterian Work Team from AZ.*