



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

FALL 2024, ISSUE 21

NOVEMBER 2024

New pamphlet  
about Work Teams



Updated pamphlet  
about Acción



Accion website



Accion on Facebook



## Student Houses for Mayan Friends

The Merida Student Houses (CEMs) are maximizing facilities with 17 young men (12 pictured) and 11 young women. Thanks to all our supporters who help feed and house these college students, including a new refrigerator for the larger crowd at the Men's House and air conditioning in the common area of the Women's House! A future dream for the Women's Merida Student House is to create a room out of the patio in the back, to house more young women

from the waiting list.

The Mayan Children's Village (VIM) near the high school in Ignacio Zaragoza serves about 15 girls and boys each day, who eat, rest, and study with internet, some staying overnight.

VIM is a safe place in an area with more crime in the last few years. VIM hosted many kids for several days of summer camp and hosted gatherings of church women. VIM may even be used as a seminary extension.



## A heart for the Kingdom

When I was 24 for years old (today 50), as I was in going through seminary, one of my teachers reminded us of the importance of having a heart for the Kingdom. In the words of Jesus "but seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and

all these things will be given to you as well" (Mat. 6:33)

Thank you, thank you, for continuing having a heart for the Kingdom, as you continue to pray for us, volunteer, and donate, for us to carry on building His Kingdom.

Blessings from the Mayaland  
*Oscar R. Dorantes*

# Work Teams Partner with Chuburna, Yucatan

Travel north from Mérida to the gulf coast, turn west and the road ends in Chuburna where a Mayan community persists that has strong ties to the Presbyterian Church in Mexico. Work Teams from Gettysburg (GPC) and Charlotte (FPC) partnered with this community in 2024 to build an annex roof for the active local church and to repaint a large retreat complex, respectively. This retreat center is directly on the beautiful beach and hosted the teams, as it has hosted many Mexican church groups of various sizes and denominations for many years, including summer camp for Accion’s leaders Oscar and Roger as youth! The FPC team painted large con-

crete halls for hammock hooks, the ubiquitous lodging in the Yucatan. The team organized by GPC worked with the local congregation, including Vacation Bible School pictured here and offering their eyeglasses ministry.

GPC participant Christine has fond memories of their first 24 hours when staying at Men’s CEM in Merida. The students welcomed and helped them with open arms and serving hearts. One student brought out his guitar and started singing praise songs in Spanish, and then in English. It was so exciting, and glorious, that we could praise God with our Christian brothers in both languages! In addition to building these

new friendships, the team had lunch with Oscar Sr., his wife Thelma, Oscar Jr., his wife Pathi, and their daughter Maya -- Three generations of the Dorantes family who founded and have continued to lead Accion Ministries over the past 40 years!



To restore pre-pandemic numbers of work teams and participants, Friends of Accion is willing to cover a third of the \$600 per person expense by offering in 2025:



Interested leaders should email Stacy:

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## Fall 2024 Hurricane Relief in the Yucatan

Three hurricanes (2 in the east and 1 in the west) have hit or “grazed” the Yucatan coastline. During Milton, over 1,000 people evacuated to Tizimin, a place many of our work teams have served over the years. In the east, many crops have been lost and, in the west, many villages are flooded. Oscar and his team are taking corn to the east and groceries to the west and will continue to serve the Mayan communities as best as they can. They started with family grocery packs for distribution in the coastal fishing village of Celestun. Thanks to Vienna Presbyterian, First Lutheran Fargo, and Northminster Presbyterian in Tucson for funding these relief efforts.

**Accion operating expenses are now exceeding our anticipated income from donations. Please consider your donation to Friends of Accion, address shown on the left, or online through PayPal at friendsofaccion.org (use Accion website QR code).**