

CAS Mission Trip is a Success

Eight persons participated in the Capitol Area South District Mission Trip to Mexico during January 11-19. The group worked for three days on a church parsonage in the town of Matehuala (pop. 75,000), Mexico (after being delayed one day by missing a flight connection to Monterrey, Mexico in Detroit). The delegation also visited the Methodist congregation in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. The congregations of the CAS District have raised over \$20,000 to help the congregation build their first building. The work group visited the site for the new church on the outskirts of the metropolitan area of San Luis (metro area pop. 957,753). San Luis is an eight hour van ride south of Monterrey (metro area pop. 5,000,000)

The mission team's assignment was to help complete work on the church parsonage at Matehuala. The current living quarters of Pastor Jesús Esquivel, his wife Dianna, and their son behind the church are intended to be Sunday School class space. A second floor was added above the current parsonage, and that is the space in which the team worked. Cement block had been laid for the walls of the structure. A group of Methodist pastors from Monterrey had applied stucco to the walls and completed electrical work. The CAS team was able to rough in plumbing (thanks to our plumber Sue). The team also started on cabinets for the kitchen (thanks to Doug and his carpentry skills). Everyone else pitched in on a variety of jobs from gluing the pvc pipe together and drilling through concrete (thanks, Roger) to installing two door frames (thanks David and Bill) to general "gofer" and clean up duties (thanks Lowell and Jim). Special thanks go to Pastor Aaron Brown as the leader of the trip. Aaron helped with the cabinets and other projects along with leading the trip.

In San Luis Potosi, Pastor Lorenzo Resendiz of the Methodist congregation in San Luis took the team to the site on which the congregation plans to build a permanent church building. They hope that the city will approve the permits by March or April. The CAS group prayed and sang at the site of the new church building. The congregation hopes to begin construction on the first Methodist Church building in this large metropolitan community this summer. After touring the city on Saturday afternoon and evening, the members of the team stayed in church members' homes on Saturday night.

On Sunday everyone gathered for worship. The congregation is still small in number (around forty persons). Pastor Aaron Brown preached during the worship service. Aaron invited persons who wanted prayer to come forward for prayer following his message. Members of the team laid hands on members of the congregation and prayed for them for health, financial needs, and family issues for about an hour after the message.

Upon returning to Monterrey, the group had the opportunity to tour the Juan Wesley Seminary. The team also had dinner with Bishop Raul Garcia of the Oriental Annual Conference. That meeting concluded with a prayer meeting with Bishop Garcia at the episcopal office. The group also had the opportunity to shop and tour in the beautiful city of Monterrey.

During the meeting with Bishop Garcia, he reminded the team that the partnership between West Ohio and the Oriental Conference is as much about building relationships as it is about building buildings. All acknowledged that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ to work together to share the Good News whether it is in Mexico or the US. The team indicated that they will continue to pray for Bishop Garcia, the Oriental Conference, the church in Matehuala, and the congregation in San Luis Potosi. Bishop Garcia assured the team that the Methodists in Mexico would continue to pray for the work of the United Methodists in the West Ohio Conference.

Members of the team included: Pastor Aaron Brown (Village Chapel), team leader; Roger Evans (Grove City Trinity), Doug Layne (Village Chapel), Susan Runion (Village Chapel), Lowell Shoaf (Pickerington Trinity), Bill Vandoren (Miamisburg Parkview), Pastor Jim Waugh, and Pastor David Ziegel (Hillard).

Aaron hopes to take another team to help with the construction of the church building in San Luis Potosi later this fall. Contact [Aaron](#) if you are interested in participating in the next mission trip.

Click [HERE](#) for pictures of the team working in Matehuala. Click [HERE](#) for pictures of the team's visit to San Luis Potosi. Click [HERE](#) for pictures of the team's visit to Monterrey.