

SALEM PRESBYTERY'S MISSION TO MEXICO

In 1994 members of Salem's Worldwide Ministries Committee organized the Presbytery's first mission trip to Mexico. The goal was to provide a short term, cross-cultural mission experience for those inexperienced in such missions.

The first group of seven travelers worked on a church construction project in Juarez, just across the Mexican, Texas border. In 1995 the group grew to 25 strong who worked on refurbishing and new construction for a church in Acapulco.

The increased participation led what was now the Mexico Mission Task Group to offer two trips to Jose Maria Morellos in the state of Quintana Roo, on the Yucatan Peninsula. There we worked on construction of a fellowship hall and Christian school, a mission which lasted 3 years.

In 1998, at the request of the Presbyterian Church of Mexico, a group of 10 from Salem traveled to Villahermosa, Tabasco to help construct the Seminary of the Southeast. It is there we met Pablo Feliciano and his wife Jan. Their knowledge of American culture and experience with mission groups elevated our ability to do God's work, and the modern era of Salem's Mission to Mexico was born.

Salem groups continued to work at the seminary until 2002. That year one of our groups worked with with the Hebron Foundation and Pablo to construct a church in San Javier, Chiapas. We were joined by a group of elders from Cardenas, MX. for our first three way cross cultural mission experience. Because of the obvious lack of medical care we witnessed in San Javier, we began planning our first medical mission trip.

In 2003 the first medical group attended over 1500 patients in Agua Azul while construction groups worked at bible schools in Palenque and Ocosingo.

In 2004 the second medical team traveled to Sibal and construction groups visited the villages of C'olote'el and Busilha, the first time American groups had worked in any of these villages.

Last year the medical team spent two weeks in Tzaljalha and two construction groups built a cistern to supply water to the Alpha and Omega Bible School and future medical clinic in Ocosingo.

As Salem Presbytery's Mission to Mexico prepares for its 13th year we are grateful for the life changing and faith affirming experiences that have been shared by nearly 300 travelers. Blessings as you continue to do God's work in God's world.