



***Yucatan Peninsula Mission, Inc.
Ouray Colorado, United States of America
Yucatan Peninsula Mission, A.C.
Cozumel Island / Leona Vicario, Yucatan
Peninsula Mexico***

November 9, 2006

Dear Friends-Family of Yucatan Peninsula Mission,

We, the YPM board members, met last week in our mission house in Leona Vicario, Mexico, and we are excited to share with you the latest decisions and developments.

Our core ministry, Come and See Missions, continues to bring our church youth and adults into fellowship with our fellow Mayan/Mexican church who are living in material poverty and often in spiritual poverty as well. In 2006, we hosted eight groups in our mission house, which is right in the heart of the ministry area assigned to us by our three partnered Presbyteries. Our neighbors live in shanties and offer us many heartwarming opportunities to serve them informally through Christian fellowship. We set a goal to host 15 groups in 2007, and we have four firm commitments and several more considering this experience. This mission house is equipped with indoor plumbing, electricity, a full kitchen, and even several beds – although many guests like sleeping in hammocks. A concrete wall protects the house and yard. It is not only safe, it is a comfortable place for groups to serve and grow together.

Our Field Experiential Education Program gives Mayan/Mexican and American individual-students practical experience in hands-on ministry to impoverished people who have little access to spiritual nurturing. We have 13 Mayan/Mexican church elders enrolled in a weekly class taught by Rev. William Cen, YPM's Ministry Officer. The classes are accredited by San Pablo Seminary curriculum. We voted to help five of them with one-third of their books and tuition at the Northern Quintana Roo Presbytery Seminary in Cancun. Rev. William and Rev. Ishmael Tun tutor them and oversee their work, as they serve as student pastors in their remote villages, where no leadership is available. In 2007, we plan to bring an American individual-student to work along side their Mayan/Mexican brothers in Christ.

An exciting new development in our Medical Program is our discovery of an abandoned two-story clinic owned by a small Mayan village. It has been sitting empty for many years while villagers suffer from preventable and curable diseases. The mayor of the village is eager to see the clinic opened. The people in the area have no access to modern medical care. Even transportation costs to Cancun clinics is formidable and beyond the means of most village folk. The availability of this clinic will allow us to bring our medical brigades to work in a facility that is clean and equipped to deliver quality care. As you may recall, our teams have had to work in churches and other structures severely inadequate to the practice of medicine. A medical brigade is coming around Easter, and we are extending an open invitation to medical teams who have the passion to treat people who seldom if ever see a doctor, nurse, or dentist. The teams can stay in the clinic, as it is equipped with modern living areas, electricity, plumbing, and a kitchen.

We voted to donate one minibus, which is no longer capable of making long-road trips, to one of the Presbyterian churches on the Island of Cozumel. We need to purchase a replacement vehicle, which is less expensive than fixing the old one(s).

William and Erly have tried to secure a visa to visit the U.S. to tell churches about their exciting work. Their first attempt failed, so they are reapplying. This process requires a three-day trip to Merida plus hundreds of dollars. We believe it is important that our churches have the opportunity to learn from them, encourage them, and to be encouraged by them.

One of the YPM goals is to bring Mayan/Mexican teams to do gospel sharing and other service in America, which emphasizes our mission partnership of equality. YPM continues to partner with instead of do it all for the Mayan/Mexican people. We have officers and board members from both countries, and we take direction from the

Presbyteries of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico. We continue to be government regulated and accountable in both countries.

An exciting development is the decision of William and Erly to move themselves and Willi to our mission house permanently within the next year and direct the ministry from there. This will allow YPM increased opportunities to grow and move in new directions because of their leadership and presence in our targeted ministry area.

Our vision is to use part of our land to construct an educational facility. After extensive research, we have discovered an extreme need for proper schools that will help equip Mayan/Mexicans to succeed in life. Thus we are exploring the building of a K-12 school so needed in our rapidly growing village. Our vision includes other facility uses such as career development for adults; Christian education for pastors, elders, and other church leaders; and support groups.

A church from Abilene, Texas, offered to help Mayan women develop hammock-weaving businesses. YPM has agreed to partner with them by purchasing 300 of these hammocks –that we formerly bought in Cancun for \$25 each-- to guarantee the women direct sales, which will substantially increase their profits. Additionally churches from Livonia, Michigan and Bolinbrook, Illinois have Kid to Kid blanket making programs started within their Sunday School, of which over 100 blankets have been made and are being delivered to YPM supported churches of the Yucatan Peninsula.

We have a \$1,800 water purification system. We are praying for a technician who can get our system up and running, not just for YPM but for the villagers who often must drink dirty well water and suffer water-borne diseases.

The board toured areas greatly damaged by 2005's Hurricane Wilma and saw the difference that YPM's help has made. We are thankful that our presence made a difference in the disaster zone.

Cardinal Francis George said, "The world distrusts us not because we are rich and free. ... They distrust us because we are deaf and blind, because too often we don't understand and make no effort to understand." YPM is part of the fabric of the Yucatan. We see the need, we hear their voices, because the Mayan/Mexican people not only know YPM, they are a part of us.

We are deeply grateful for your help in building the foundation of this mission and helping it grow to this extent. Now that our foundation has been established and we have a home base facility in the area, we are seeing many doors of opportunity opening. We hope you will continue to partner with YPM for the Mayan/Mexican people as, together, we seek to bring hope and healing to the less fortunate according to Christ's call to serve the poor.

We pray for better understanding of God's work in our own life and the lives of the people we are serving, and this too is our Prayer for you,

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