

Juarez Mission Trip
March 24 – 29 2008

Our St. James' Church short-term mission team with sixteen (16) members just returned from an absolutely phenomenal week on a short-term mission trip to Juarez, Mexico. We built a house for a deserving very young family with nine (9) month old twin children in four (4) days. We worked with Gateway Mission Training Center in El Paso, Texas. Gateway provided wonderful support. They had poured the concrete slab and had the building materials delivered to the construction site prior to our arrival. Gateway furnished two (2) very skilled local Mexican carpenters to instruct and assist us plus two (2) of the Gateway staff were with us to oversee the build. We stayed in a compound at a Mexican Anglican Church (St. Matias) in Juarez, were provided marvelous meals, and commuted from there to the construction site each day. We shared the compound with a wonderful Christ Church team from a Chicago suburb who were building another house – We bonded extremely well with the other team as we visited and prayed for one another. All of our activities were covered in prayer and with daily team devotions. The LORD Jesus Christ indeed does marvelous things through His people! Our team median and average age was significantly above the usual for such teams; however, maturity and experience pay off as we stayed well ahead of the construction schedule throughout and completed a very solidly built house. The team truly functioned as the "Body of Christ" with each and every person invaluable contributing their encouragement and labor as they were gifted and capable.

On Monday, March 24th, we met at St. James' Church, in Clovis, loaded up, drove to El Paso by car pool caravan, arrived at Gateway Missions, crossed into Mexico, settled into our bare necessity quarters and in-briefed. We began construction on Tuesday morning, March 25th by sawing the timbers to specified lengths plus building and erecting the frame. On Wednesday, March 26th, we covered the frame, put on the roof, completed the electrical wiring, and began applying chicken wire in preparation for applying the stucco. Thursday, March 27th, we installed the insulation, did most of the drywall, and completed the chicken wire and exterior preparations. On Friday, March 28th, we completed the drywall, hung the ceiling fans and light fixtures, put in the electrical outlets and switches and applied the stucco to the entire structure exterior. On Saturday, March 29th, we had the house Blessing with the family's Church Pastor and presented gifts to the family of a Bible signed by all team members, a cooking stove, kitchen pots and pans, dishes, flatware, towels, toys, dolls, et cetera. We developed a wonderful relationship with the family for whom the house was completed plus their extended family. The family, with the help of extended family and friends, will tape and texture the drywall and apply paint in a color scheme to their liking. Following our goodbyes to the family, we crossed the border back into the United States, again transferred baggage, and drove home to Clovis. St. James' Church had our customary fifth (5th) Sunday fellowship luncheon on March 30th during which the team shared photographs, and witnessed about what a wonderful short-term mission cross-cultural experience and time of spiritual growth we all enjoyed. Each and every team member was mightily blessed by the short-term mission trip.