



A "Shot in the Arm" for the Yucatecan Rhythm

In January of this year, Abimael Borbolla, District Superintendent of the Mexican state of Oaxaca, woke up the church leaders of Yucatan when he alerted us that the our rate of growth, what he called the "Yucatecan Rhythm," has been limited to 2.7 churches per year, a growth rate of roughly 1.5%.

Granted, any growth is progress. However, when we compare this growth with population figures, growing at a rate of 1.6% annually, our growth rate of 1.5% means that we are actually losing ground! So the logical conclusion is that, if we plan to see the Great Commission fulfilled in the state of the Yucatán, we need to get busy planting churches.

Nevertheless, increased activity alone will not ensure the success of this endeavor. Our vision must be to plant churches that thrive, starting a cycle of reproduction that will effectively disciple the population. The dissemination of that vision has been the goal of the current series of Church



Planting Training Seminars during the months of April through June.

Together with District Missions Director, Abel Can, Secretary-Treasurer of the Missions Committee, Fernando Diaz, and missionaries Lidia Pompeyo and Norma Uitzil, we've introduced dozens of pastors and church members to effective methods of church planting.

The 5-hour conference covered such subjects as the role of intercession, the responsibilities of the mothering church, the necessity of understanding the community, strategies to use to gain entrance into that community, and the elaboration of a chronological plan which ties all of the elements together. Our desire has been to stimulate the district on toward the goal of planting 100 new churches in the next two years.

We're encouraged to have been able to contribute to church growth in the Yucatán in this manner. Pray with us that the tools disseminated will result in the "shot in the arm" that the Yucatecan Rhythm needs!



contact

David and Kelly Godzwa
Calle 15 No. 98-J x 12 y 14
Colonia Itzimná
Mérida, Yucatán, México C.P. 97100

Account #2696136

Come visit us on the web!
<http://www.disciplemexico.org>
Email: dave.godzwa@agmd.org

pray

We desperately need your prayers as we continue our ministry here in Mexico. Please pray for:

- Continued divine provision for financial resources.
- The realization of the goals of our church planting efforts.
- Advances in Teen Challenge ministry in the Yucatán.
- Protection for us and our ministry partners.

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Summer has arrived, and with it many activities. The kids will be involved in music classes, Vacation Bible School, and an annual "all church" retreat weekend, just to name a few!



In Conversation for Progress



In our December newsletter, we shared of a door opening to bring Teen Challenge ministry to the Yucatán.

This past month, we've

taken steps to walk through that door!

Gamaliel Cerda and his wife Alejandra, directors of "Reto a la Juven-

tud" (Teen Challenge) in Mexico City were with us for a week, visiting two fledgling Assemblies of God rehabilitation centers and speaking to the pastors of vision of Teen Challenge here in the Yucatán. Conversations are also in progress to adopt these centers as branches of "Reto a la Juventud." If these conversations go forward, it would mean that these two centers would be able to count on the assessment, training, and the administration they need to get their programs in line with the standards of Global Teen Challenge. Pray for this development!