

## The Gift of Presence

December 25 is coming and with it, the pressure of finding that perfect gift to please those special someones on Christmas morning. Still, although I would include myself in those anxious to unwrap what awaits under the tree, I know that no present satisfies like the gift of *presence* this Christmas.

That's exactly what God did for us some 2000 years ago through His Son; He gifted us with the present of Himself. He took on flesh that He might be touched. He limited His vision to human eyes that He might see from our perspective, and He set aside His divine power that He might be able to empathize with us in our weakness. Jesus was truly Immanuel, God come near.

This Christmas, we encourage you to reflect the love of the Father, and give the gift of yourself to those who are near and dear and perhaps even to those who might fall outside of that circle of intimacy.

## Living Free is a Possibility Within Reach

We're so glad to have hosted Gregg Fischer last month for Living Free training in Mérida and Valladolid, Yucatán. In the two sessions, 53 people from 20 different churches received small group training to minister to people with life-controlling issues like drug and alcohol abuse, eating disorders, and depression. The participants not only received the training, they also were given free access, thanks to Living Free, to all of the materials necessary to begin these small groups.

As we encourage you to give of yourself this holiday season, we'd like to thank you for what you do to enable us to represent God's presence here in the Yucatán. Whether it be the



Maya speaker who hears the Word of God for the first time in their own language, an alcoholic who receives help from a church sensitized to their plight, or a Bible college student who finds direction on his path of spiritual formation, our presence in this place is a reminder to these that God

would even call a foreigner to cross the gap of culture and distance to show them, in an unmistakable way, that He loves them.

Thanks for your willingness to respond to and share our burden for the people of this region with your prayers, with your finances, and for some even your direct involvement. Blessings on you this Christmas, we couldn't do what we do without you.



For the hurting people of the Yucatán, living free is now a possibility within reach!

For the full post scan the QR code or follow the link: <http://bit.ly/1ejCCaC>



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## relate

"I once caught a fish this big!" Visiting the guys at *Nuevo Amanecer con Cristo* drug and alcohol rehab clinic in Celestún, Joseph, Rebekah, and Jonathan got a chance to dream about what it must be like to reel in the "big one."



Sure, we've all heard our share of fish stories, but come September 2014, we have a real story to share with individuals, groups, and churches of what God's doing in the Yucatán.

Just scan the QR code or follow the link below, fill out the form, and hit the send button to schedule us in your area!



<http://bit.ly/16klhek>