



DAVID AND KELLY GODZWA MEXICO AREA DIRECTORS

1323 N Warren Ave
Springfield, MO 65802

814-480-0573
disciplemexico.org
david@disciplemexico.org
Acct # 269613

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the Establishment of the Church

The mission of Assemblies of God World Missions (AGWM) is to establish the Church among all peoples everywhere, by reaching, planting, training, and serving. We are privileged as Area Directors to provide leadership to our 44 missionary colleagues who labor in partnership with the national church throughout the country to evangelize the lost, disciple new believers, and catalyze vibrant, gospel ministry. All of this activity, though, must be in service of our mission—the establishment of the Church.

Therefore, nothing gives us cause for celebration like being able to share that, *Centro de Adoración a Jesús*, a church planted by missionaries Rich and Jenni DeMartino as the first Assemblies of God church in downtown Guadalajara finally has a permanent home!

This congregation, originally planted in an upper-class neighborhood, responded to the needs of the homeless in the park, *Jardín Villa de Cigales*, during the COVID pandemic. There, they labored in the open air, reaching dozens each week

with a free meal and the message of hope in Jesus. We had the opportunity to witness this mission of mercy, joining Rich and Jenni and pastors, Alfredo Trejo and Shulamita Esparza, in August of 2022, helping to distribute food and translate a gospel message alongside a team from Pittsfield, MA.

While happy to see lives being touched, Rich and Jenni longed to establish a permanent presence in the neighborhood, a place where the disadvantaged could have their needs met holistically and grow in relationship with a discipling community. But, even during our second visit this April, the price and availability of a suitable building threatened to dash their hopes.

However, God blessed their determination as they scoured the area in search of property and inspired the Latin America Caribbean Region, the Mexico Missionary Fellowship, and individual donors to provide the necessary resources to make Rich and Jenni's dream a reality. This August 4th, Rich and Jenni, Alfredo and Shulamita, and the Superintendent of *Distrito Occidente*, Elizabeth Lopez,

signed the purchase papers and received the keys to the new permanent home of *Centro de Adoración a Jesús*. We praise God for His provision and anticipate stories of changed lives as this new facility is put to use.

However, even as we celebrate this milestone, the words of Loren Triplett, former Executive Director of AGWM, ring in our ears. "We dare not measure our successes against anything but the unfinished task." Although *Centro de Adoración a Jesús* has a home, there are still whole cities in Mexico that lack a similar witness. As the DeMartinos move into active retirement, the question increasingly becomes who will be that witness?



Alfredo and Shulamita, pastors of *Centro de Adoración a Jesús*, receive the keys to their new permanent facility in downtown Guadalajara.



Working together

We are committed to partner with

El Concilio Nacional de las Asambleas de Dios in Mexico. Last month, Dave met with Superintendent Enrique González to discuss hurricane relief and strategic ministry opportunities.



Finding opportunity Our travels in August afforded us an early morning family meeting. This fall, Jonathan is studying at MSU, Joseph is managing for Amazon, and Rebekah is teaching at Evangel, where Luke is on staff!

We're planning our calendar!

We're setting up our 2024-2025 iteration cycle, beginning July 2024, and would love to see you! Head to <https://s1.ag.org/visit> to schedule our visit!

