



Border Pulse

March, 2010

BEAMM Turns 20!

“So let’s send our sons and daughters to the border with shovels and picks and not guns!” With words like these (not an exact quote), Mission to the World (MTW) evangelist Jimmy Lyons poured out his heart to the 14th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA). He had visited the border between the United States and Mexico, and was deeply touched by the overwhelming poverty and misery that he saw. Spurred on by the burden the Holy Spirit had laid on his heart, he urged the PCA into action.

In the three summers leading up to 1990, what was then SIMA (Servants in Missions Abroad) sent over 600 people from seventy churches to build houses, churches, and clinics, and to evangelize. MTW missionary in Mexico, Dick Dye, helped coordinate these efforts. Many worked with Rev. Isaias Uc, who had been in McAllen, TX, since 1986. As labors bore fruit and interest mounted among PCA churches, Mission to the World and Mission to North America (MNA) quickly recognized that a full-time coordinator for the border ministry was needed. In September, 1990, Rev. Moisés Zapata, a civil engineer and pastor from Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, and a graduate of Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, MS, arrived in El Paso, TX, to become the first coordinator of Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM).

Moisés quickly set to work developing initial ideas for the ministry. He was soon joined by Dan Young, and



Moisés Zapata and Family
BEAMM Coordinator 1989-2003

This edition of the Border Pulse is dedicated to the twenty year’s of God’s faithfulness and blessing to the BEAMM ministry, and to those who have ministered as part of the BEAMM team.

together with Darlene Walters and Dave Robertson of MTW/Impact, and Peter Clark and Kevin McKemie of World Relief, formulated the initial purpose, vision, and strategy of BEAMM:

On the basis of our conviction that man is made in God’s image, and that Jesus Christ has died to redeem sinners, the border ministry of the PCA should reach out in church planting on both sides of the border and in works of mercy in response to needs expressed by local communities. Strategy for accomplishing this vision would be to place full-time workers in key areas, and continue sending teams of youth and adults to the border.

Continuing with the heart of this strategy, Moisés led the drive to establish a working agreement between MTW and the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (NPCM). This historic document was signed in Mérida, Yucatán, Mexico, in November, 1993, by Rev. John Kyle of MTW and Rev. Ramiro Laureano, President of the General Assembly of the NPCM.

In succeeding years, short-term teams played a vital role in the development of the BEAMM ministry in Ciudad Juárez. Renovation work was done at a church along with construction

at two local schools. In addition, outreach events, such as Vacation Bible Schools in public parks, proclaimed the Gospel to over 600 children and their parents in just a three-year period! God’s Spirit brought many of these to a saving relationship with Jesus Christ, and three churches, Gracia y Paz, Tierra Prometida, and Vida Nueva were born.

As these works matured, the BEAMM team continued to grow, adding key leaders like Josué Mayo, Gary Nantt, David White, and Aaron Zapata. In 2000, the San Pablo Seminary was begun in Juárez to formally train future leaders of the developing border church.

By God’s grace, over these past twenty years over 600 people have come to Christ through the ministry of BEAMM. May He continue to use the BEAMM team to reach millions of lost people who live on the border with TRUE HOPE that is the Gospel!

Border Evangelism And Mercy Ministries

BORDER VIOLENCE ESCALATES

Over 3,000 Predicted to Die in 2010



Rival drug cartels continue to duke it out in Mexican border cities to obtain or maintain a corridor for their products into the United States. In Juárez, over 2,200 people were killed in 2009, and that number is expected to reach 3,000 in 2010, based upon the rate of murders occurring thus far this year!

While local and federal authorities in Mexico are desiring to battle the violence, the insertion of thousands of Mexican Army troops and hundreds of specially-trained Federal Police has done little to bring the situation under control.

Most residents of border cities are uneasy about their safety, and some

have fled to other areas of Mexico or into the United States to escape the violence.

Many have asked us, “So how does the violence affect BEAMM?” Well, truthfully, not alot, and a whole lot. In some senses, BEAMM pastors, missionaries, and church planters

continue to work within their communities as they had been before the violence escalated. But since the violence has affected more and more within their communities, the churches have taken on a new role of loving and counseling these grieving families.

The violence has also caused many churches in the U.S. to think twice about sending short-term teams to the border. The number of folks coming to the border has dwindled to half of the number just a few years ago. While this diminishes the amount of involvement on the part of the teams, it forces the border churches to take a more active role in outreach to their communities.

Please pray that God would thwart the efforts of those who do evil, and that He would embolden the churches of the border to proclaim the Gospel of Peace and Hope!

EQUIPPING

Our Goal, Our Focus, Our Mandate

As God continues to open up ministry opportunities on the border, the need for top-notch leaders is more pressing than ever. Over the past few years, we have been searching for the next generation of qualified men who could lead God’s church in the coming years. So far our search has yielded little fruit.

While various education and training institutions, such as the San Pablo Seminary in Juárez, the Baja California Theological Seminary Extension in Tijuana, Leadership and Ministry Preparation (LAMP) sites in El Paso, Las Cruces, NM, and San Antonio, TX, have been established to train and prepare men for ministry, the number of men that have been trained or are being trained today, is minimal compared to the need. So what’s the answer?

We believe that God is leading us to “change our tactics,” so to speak. That means we need to “create” the leaders of the future by developing training materials and programs that excite and challenge the youth of border congregations in service to Christ, and personally mentor young men whom God is calling as pastors, church planters, elders, and deacons.

And how might we do this? Well, that’s precisely what we are in the process of figuring out. God has brought highly-qualified men and women to our team with a variety of gifts: church planters; evangelists; educators; administrators; and specialists in mercy ministries. We are a bilingual, bi-cultural team. We exemplify the spirit of teamwork. Our problem is that we are spread thinly all

along the 2,000-mile border. We need to consolidate and build our team into a group of mini-teams that are made up of a church planter, evangelist, educator, administrator, and mercy ministry coordinator, then add a group of students alongside them to plant churches. In this manner, students not only learn academically, they also learn by observing and doing.

Our goal, our focus, is that we would follow Paul’s mandate in Ephesians 4:12, to be “equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” This includes not only knowledge and know-how, but also character, integrity, and Christ-likeness. May God enable BEAMM to not only plant churches, but also to equip His leaders of tomorrow!

Western Region

God has continued to bless the work of the Vida Nueva Mission, pastored by Juan Arjona, in a mostly-Hispanic part of Escodido, CA, with over seventy-five people at Sunday worship and 200 people coming to the Saturday food distributions.

Last April, the mission hosted its third annual Day of the Child celebration with over 10,000 people in attendance! The mission also hosts Safe Walks to protect school children from drug dealers, women's ministries, and vacation Bible schools.

In Tijuana, the Roe family ministers to children in an orphanage and elderly indigents at a group home. In addition, the Roes have been instrumental in bringing short-term teams from southern California to teach ESL at the Monte Horeb mission, opening many opportunities for Gospel outreach.

The Calls have settled in to their role alongside the Navarros and the Dios Soberano mission. The mission has about forty people at Sunday worship, and utilizes students from the Baja California Theological Seminary to assist with services. The mission was donated a 14,000 square-foot metal building in 2008, and had been trying to purchase a piece of land on which to place it since that time. However, because of legal issues, the mission had to eventually purchase a smaller piece of land in a more densely populated part of the city, and plans to build as much of the metal building as will fit on the property.

Dios Soberano has also sponsored evangelistic events, reached out to a local orphanage, and hosted numerous short-term teams with whom they can reach out to the city. Recently, the mission hosted a medical clinic to serve the physical needs of the people within their community.

Central Region

This past December, Samuel Lopez, BEAMM church planter at Frontera de Gracia Church in Juárez, was officially licensed by the Chihuahua Presbytery to serve as a pastor in the presbytery.

Three years ago, the Chihuahua Presbytery commissioned Juan Antonio García as the pastor of Promesa de Vida Church in Juárez. On March 7th, the Promesa de Vida congregation voted to call Juan Antonio to serve as their pastor for the next five years.

Former BEAMM Coordinator, Moisés Zapata, is now serving as interim pastor of Gracia y Paz Church in Juárez.

The work at Las Tierras Community

Regional Reports

Church continues to grow with an average attendance at Sunday worship of eighty to ninety people. In addition, the church has begun a "pray for your neighbor" outreach where members may contact their neighbors to pray for them and build a relationship with them.

Las Tierras is also finishing up its second house project, this time for the Rodriguez family. Their first project, completed in 2008 was for the Peña family, who now are believers and members of Las Tierras. In fact, their daughter Brenda translates the Sunday service from English to Spanish.

The work in Nogales continues to progress as well. The Pueblo de Esperanza team has just rented a storefront to provide a larger meeting space for the growing group.

Eastern Region

Dan and Becky Young moved to McAllen, TX, in December, 2009, and have begun their work as Eastern Regional Director by visiting ministries in McAllen, Reynosa, Brownsville, Harlingen, Monterrey, and Laredo.

Dan's focus for 2010 is to help Iglesia La Vid in Laredo occupy their new sanctuary through the raising of \$20,000 and the help of short-term teams in March and during the summer, and to help recruit and fund a church planter to begin a new multi-cultural work in McAllen.

On March 13th, two churches from Texas and Alabama will join to help La Vid do outreach to their community and work on their sanctuary. Trinity PCA of Boerne, TX, a new church, is taking the lead in this project. They invited members of the La Vid youth group to visit their congregation the last weekend of February, accompanied by a young couple that is now working with them. The congregation in Boerne gave them a great reception, inviting them to a ranch, fellowshiping with them in worship and meeting with them to plan for the outreach coming up. We are very excited for what God is doing in building the relationships between PCA churches and border congregations in this region.

And on March 31st, Dan will have the opportunity to meet with Mexican presbyterian pastors and leaders working in this region of the border. MTW Northern Mexico team leader Andres Garza, of Monterrey, along with Pastor Rafael Rodriguez, a presbytery moderator, are helping to set this up. Please pray for this important step in relationship building!

Tim and Kristy Holliday continue to raise support, and are planning to attend pre-field training in New York City in July and language school in Costa Rica in the fall.

MEET THE TEAM

Tim and Kristy Holliday

The Holliday family comes to BEAMM via Omaha, Nebraska, where Tim currently serves as a deacon at Harvest Community Church (PCA). After 20 years of service in the US Navy submarine force, Tim retired in 2005. The Hollidays have five children at home, as well as one married daughter and one grandson.

After a short time in Omaha, God began to draw Tim and Kristy into mercy ministry, where they have walked alongside those coming out of addiction and broken relationships, helping to meet physical needs while continuing to tell the Good News of the Gospel of Christ. They have worked in Hispanic ministries, and Kristy has served as a teacher and an administrator of the English as a Second Language (ESL) ministry. As an ESL trainer for MNA, Kristy teaches others to teach ESL and to begin ESL ministries in their churches.

God has used experiences in short-term missions trips to draw Tim and Kristy to

career missionary service with BEAMM. Kristy helped to lay the foundation for Promesa de Vida Church in Juárez in 2006. Tim, Kristy, and their older two children have also served on short-term teams to La Vid church in Laredo, working on constructing the sanctuary and helping with VBS.

In serving as the Mercy Ministries Coordinator in the Eastern Region, Tim hopes to use the gifts and experiences God has given him to serve those along the border, sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both Word and deed. Tim will serve alongside Eastern Regional Director Dan Young, supporting the work of church planting in conjunction



with community development and mercy ministry.

The Hollidays were approved by MTW and joined BEAMM in Spring 2009. They continue to itinerate and raise the financial and prayer support necessary to get to the South Texas/Mexico border. They will attend Cross Cultural Ministry Internship training in July, 2010, in New York City, and plan to begin Spanish language training in Fall 2010 in Costa Rica.

PLEASE PRAY WITH US!

- Pray that the metal building for Dios Soberano Mission may be moved into Mexico quickly
- Praise God for the Pueblo de Esperanza mission in Nogales. Pray for additional financial support for the Mayo's, the Uc's and Jacinto Ordoñez. Pray that God will use the space in the new location to bring many to hear the Gospel.
- Pray for BEAMM's ability to recruit and equip many as leaders in God's Church on the border and for the development of "Equip" teams
- Pray for the Youngs and their ability to jumpstart work on the Eastern end of the border
- Pray that God would end the violence in the Mexican border cities and that those who do evil would be thwarted in every way
- Pray for wisdom, strength, and encouragement for border churches to boldly proclaim the Gospel

- Pray that more people would sign up as BEAMM Prayer Warriors. www.beamm.org/prayerwarriorapplication.html
- Praise God for the BEAMM Partnership. Pray that he would strengthen the Partnership and add to its membership
- Pray that the Burkempers, Hollidays, and Marooneys would be able to quickly raise the remaining amount of support needed for them to come to the border and serve
- Pray that God would provide the money needed to remove the shortfall in the Arjona's, Davidson's, Lopez's, and Zapata's support accounts
- Pray that God would grant the architect wisdom and ability to design the Juárez Community Center building, and that He would show us the right time to begin building

- Pray that God would raise up donors to supply the money for the construction of the Community Center
- Pray for a new pastor for Gracia y Paz Church
- Pray that \$20,000 would quickly be provided so that La Vid could occupy its new sanctuary



BORDER EVANGELISM AND MERCY MINISTRIES

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A ministry of the
Presbyterian Church in America,
Mission to the World,
and Mission to North America