

JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL MINISTRIES (JEM)

2017 Director of Missions Report

JEM has entered its eleventh year of evangelical ministry in Northern Mexico. Under the authority of the board and the cooperation of our subordinate ministries, we have maintained the oversight of our village activities through the direction and control of finances, budget accounting, pastoral and intermediary communications, on-site monitoring of ministry programs, food and goods distribution, benevolent partner relationships, and facility management.

Maria Porchas, our village mission representative and pastor of the ministry work in Cheque, has been in continual communication with our village intermediaries and pastors by cell phone and through on-site visitations. Brother Jim Rathjen and I have maintained weekly phone contact with Maria spending many hours as a mission committee discussing ministry progress and needs and developing monthly proposed budgets. We have endeavored to keep the JEM board informed of our discussions and of all ministry operations and have provided pictorial updates as consistently as possible to both the board and JEM members. Pictorial village updates and other various reports have also been posted on our JEM-Site by brother Ron Hoepfner.

Arnulfo Vieyra and Gabriel Ruiz, our pastoral intermediaries to the community areas of Escondida and Nogales, continued their diligent work over the past year in implementing and administrating approved ministry activities on JEM's behalf. Unfortunately, for reasons of family stress, Pastor Gabriel had to move his wife and children from the Nogales area in early November to their home community in Ensenada, Baja. Brother Gabriel had only a short time to prepare for this move and did his best to prepare an assistant to carry on the village church work with Pastor Arnulfo assuming the intermediary responsibilities on JEM's behalf. However, the assistant that replaced brother Gabriel was unable to meet JEM agency reporting requirements, and we had to notify pastors Arnulfo and Gabriel that we would have to discontinue our involvement in this ministry until those requirements could be met to our satisfaction. Both Arnulfo and Gabriel understood our concerns and ministry expectations. We have been informed that brother Gabriel has now settled his wife and family in Ensenada and will be returning to the Nogales area to help establish a better ministry transition of this village church work. We have always known Pastor Gabriel as a faithful sacrificial servant of the Lord and sincere JEM ministry partner. The work he has done in Nogales is extraordinary and it would be disappointing not to see this work continue in such a desperate area that is filled with the outrageous evils of a spiritually, socially, and economically destitute society.

On a more positive note, we were very blessed by the return of Pastor Angel Munoz who rejoined the JEM pastoral team this past November. For those JEM members that are not acquainted with brother Angel, he

served for approximately a year as Pastor Arnulfo's assistant at the Escondida Farm Church before moving to his home community of Loreto on the Baja peninsula. He was also one of the volunteer workers who helped Pastor Eduardo build the Cheque church facility and is a very well received brother by brethren who live in these destitute environments. Since his return, brother Angel, his wife Maria, and members of his extended family have been assisting Pastor Arnulfo with the Escondida farm and village worship and teaching ministries and has been assisting Pastor Maria Porchas in the village of Cheque by conducting mid-week worship services and Bible study classes for adults and young people. Pastor Angel will continue this schedule until Maria completes her seasonal employment position in Yuma, Arizona in April. At that time, his pastoral responsibilities will be determined by the JEM board. Brother Angel is very interested in establishing a new village ministry work on JEM's behalf in the Ejido area which is an approximately twenty miles south of Escondida. This is the same area where Pastor Gabriel once ministered before moving to the Nogales area and would be a similar evangelical work to that in the village of Cheque if approved by the board.

With the help of Pastor Angel and village ministry assistant, Lupita Ramirez, Pastor Maria has been able to maintain a full weekly schedule of ministry activities in the village of Cheque. This schedule includes prayer meetings, adult Bible study, children's ministries, Sunday & mid-week fellowship meetings, counseling, feeding & donations activities, village thrift store, facility and grounds maintenance projects, and an adult education program in co-operation with the San Luis DIF social services agency. Of course, such a ministry schedule would not be possible without the assistance of maturing village saints who have fulfilled assigned roles of responsibility in the implementation of ministry activities. It is such a blessing to witness and hear of those brothers and sisters who are maturing in the Lord and becoming actively involved in ministry.

As many of you are aware, Director Jim Rathjen and his wife, Sandi, visited our mission field in Sonora, Mexico this past fall during the last few days of October and the first week of November. They travelled with Pastor Maria to the city of San Luis and the rural community areas of Cheque and Escondida. During their visits, they ministered alongside Maria in village church meetings and observed the different ministry activities taking place. The board received a pictorial presentation of Jim and Sandi's ministry activities which was also posted on the JEM-Site.

With partial JEM funding, donated material resources, and volunteer labor, we completed a few maintenance projects through the year. In the village of Cheque, a chained link fence was installed to enclose the church property which included two front gates, one as a walkway entrance and the other as a wide gate entrance for vehicles. There was also a cement patio constructed just outside the church entrance where many small gatherings take place. In Escondida we added some chairs and work tables for a growing youth work. We were also able to help with the purchase of new tires for the mini-van.

By the Lord's grace and provision, JEM has been able to maintain its monthly operational budgets in providing for approved village ministry activities. This has been remarkable considering the challenge of an

ongoing negative exchange rate in maintaining financial support in US funds. This is certainly a credit to those faithful donors who have supported this ministry. We are also continually appreciative of our benevolent partners in Somerton and Yuma, Arizona and San Luis, Mexico who have provided numerous donations of food, goods, and materials for distribution to the village poor and destitute. It is also encouraging to mention the continual church offerings given by faithful village brethren who have very limited financial resources. These offerings have been used to help provide for basic facility maintenance, essential needs, and celebration activities.

In the years of this evangelical ministry, we have witnessed some wonderful spiritual and material blessings of the Lord's provision in the Sonora villages we have ministered in. During this time, it has been our endeavor to declare the 'Gospel of Christ' in these villages, establish church fellowship, and make a concerted effort to address poverty. There are many of these destitute villages in the vast territory of Sonora where people have little opportunity to escape the environment of poverty they live in. In most cases, sadly enough, there is no established Christian fellowship. The Lord has kept the doors of opportunity wide open to declare the 'Gospel' in these village areas. The harvest is certainly plentiful and the laborers are available! As we continue in this outreach ministry, may we trust the Holy Spirit to lead us in God's heavenly order and provision. 'His Righteous Ones Will Live by Faith!' - Hebrews 11.

In closing, I would like to thank our board members and bookkeeper for their administrative labors and mission field ministry. I also thank all members for their prayers and sincere faith in the vision and support of this ministry.

In the Love of Our Lord Jesus Christ - En el amor de nuestro Señor JesuCristo

Lanny

Lanny Anderson, Director of Missions
Jerusalem Evangelical Ministries (JEM)

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In closing I want to express my appreciation to Pastor Maria, our 'Mission Field Representative', for another year of exemplary service in her oversight of our JEM intermediaries and village ministry activities in the Sonora mission field. I also want to express my gratitude to Jim Rathjen, our 'Assistant Director of Missions', who has so gracefully assumed many of my administrative responsibilities during my recent illness and current recovery period. Finally, I thank all our board members and bookkeeper for their administrative labours and sincere faith in the vision and support of this ministry.

For further information covering ministry activities, please refer to my 'Aug - Oct. Missions Visit Report'. If you have not received a copy, the report can be found on our JEM-Site under the 'Updates' tab. www.jeministries.net

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