

JERUSALEM EVANGELICAL MINISTRIES (JEM)

2019 AGM Director of Missions Report

We are now completing our thirteenth year of evangelical ministry. Over the past year we have endeavored to maintain and improve our ministry operations and firmly establish our Sonora church base in the village of Cheke'.

Pastors Maria Porchas and Arnulfo Vieyra, with the help of their appointed assistants, maintained consistent schedules in Cheke' and the Escondida Farm Church locations implementing and overseeing our approved ministry activities. These activities were reported regularly in mission updates, reports, and pictorial presentations to the board and JEM members throughout the year. Director Jim Rathjen and I maintained weekly communications with Maria, who also serves as our 'Missions Representative', discussing village budgets and ministry activities, progress, and concerns. These matters were reported to our board of directors for determining changes in the oversight and development of our village ministries and for confirmation that JEM finances were being used for approved activities.

During the latter part of April and the beginning of May, brother Jim made his third visit to the Sonora mission field joining Pastor Maria and Tony Porchas in village ministry. During his stay, he visited the community areas of Cheke' and Escondida greeting several village brethren and renewing his acquaintance with Pastor Arnulfo and his ministry team. Jim also had the opportunity to share the gospel in fellowship meetings, observe and evaluate ministry activities, introduce Mp3 listening devices for those adults with language and reading difficulties, and assist Maria in the selection and purchase of new air coolers for the Cheke' church facility. The air coolers were inserted in the church building by village deacon, Benjamin Gonzales, and have been working very efficiently. Brother Benjamin also found a way to partly refurbish the old air coolers and inserted them in the youth facility. The purchase, refurbishing, and installation of the air coolers were the only building projects for the year other than normal maintenance. It was fortunate that Jim was available to participate in this work. A pictorial presentation of Jim's visit has been inserted on the JEM website.

A serious immigration situation has been developing over the past several months with throngs of Central American migrants infiltrating Sonora and Baja areas with thousands more on their way. This has created both social and sanitary problems of considerable concern with the continued congestion of individuals and families at border crossing locations. Maria has reported that there has been an increase in violent crimes resulting in injuries and deaths in residential areas, and just as alarming, there has been news reports of women and children being kidnapped for the organ transplant trade. With most migrants being denied legal entrance into the US, it has become apparent that there must be some alternate solutions for accommodating many of the desperate people involved. Presently, the Mexican government has opened its doors to those who can find employment or legal ways of surviving. In time, we may see an influx of these migrants into the agricultural village areas we serve. This, of course, would present the opportunity to minister to those families and individuals in spiritual and material need.

The door of evangelical outreach and expansion to rural Sonora villages remains open. However, we did not receive the leading of the Holy Spirit or have the financial and material resources to expand in that direction this past year. We continue in fellowship and communication with those pastors who have served JEM faithfully in an intermediary capacity. This would include pastors Eduardo Saenz, Enrique Conklin, Gabriel Ruiz, Angel Munoz, and Antonio Duarte who served respectively in the villages of Cheke', Santa Rosalia, Nogales, Ejido, Escondida, Lagunitas Community, and Barrote.

The food shipments from 'Hunger Plus' and 'Gleanings' have not resumed and there is no guarantee that this will happen soon with the present lack of benevolent sources. I have remained in contact with Susan Jensen at the 'Hunger Plus' office in Plainsview, Texas, and she is aware of our ministry need and willingness to receive food shipments should they become available. Fortunately, we are still in ministry association with 'I Care Inc.' and co-ordinator, Rene Bastamente, who has been very willing to continue sharing food and goods donations with our village ministry when available. Maria has also established a partnering ministry relationship with several individuals and some churches in the Somerton and Yuma, Az. areas who continue to donate food and essential goods for village distribution.

Brother Ron Hoepfner continued to maintain our website throughout the year inserting all submitted updates, reports, and village presentations. Ron and I have been reviewing the website periodically for any improvements or additions in presentation and structure that may be recommended to our board of directors. Of course, the thoughts and suggestions of our board and JEM members have always been welcome. I was able to improve the Sonora and Baja 'map presentation' with typed in village and city locations. These villages and cities represent all the geographical locations where JEM has ministered in Mexico over its years of operation. The locations are verified by pictorial presentations and updated links that can be found under the tabs on our website which includes the 'Archive' section.

I made three visits to the Yukon in 2018 between the months of March and November. During my visits, I attended our annual AGM meeting, enjoyed fellowship with our Yukon directors, renewed acquaintances with First Nation brethren, attended and ministered at cross-cultural fellowship gatherings, visited with local church pastors, and participated in a very successful JEM, Christmas fund raising event at the Nazarene Church. This event was organized by our treasurer, Lois Craig, with the assistance of Sylvia Neschokat, Diane Hnatiuk, and Pastor Norman Hajian.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all our JEM directors for their faithfulness, patience, and diligent work in the oversight and direction of this ministry. A special thanks to Marilyn Young, Lois Craig, and Maria Porchas for their diligent work in the management and reporting of our financial records. Also, a grateful appreciation to all JEM members and friends for their prayers and continued generosity in the support of this ministry.

Que el Señor sea bendecido en todo lo que hacemos, (May the Lord be blessed in all that we do.)
Lanny Anderson, Director
Jerusalem Evangelical Ministries (JEM)