

# MEXICO CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Location: Mexico- Jalisco, Nayarit, Colima (16 Towns)

Trip Dates: April 11-29, 2022

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## **C for Champions:**

- Mexico YM as places to be reached out for the fulfillment of the VM32 church planting project.
- Mexico North YM is being part joining MYM (central) VM32 by praying and sending
- Iglesia Evangelica Amigos Las Vegas has had a special interest in Jalisco. In fact, they already send people annually to do evangelism events at a small town in Jalisco where there is no evangelical church present.
- Each church in the Mexico Yearly Meeting is taking ownership to pray for these three explored states and asking God for people from their churches to be willing to be obedient to the call from God to go out to other cities and plant new churches.
- Angelica de La Cruz, from Coahuila has expressed interest and strong feeling that God is calling her to go to any of these towns, her preference is in Jalisco.

## **A for Affirmation:**

- Both Mexico YMs (North and Central)
- Antony and Kimberly Doi (Nayarit)-Huichole Ministry
- Pastor (not from Friends) Martin and wife- Huichole Ministry
- Iglesia Amigos Las Vegas
- In each of the towns visited, the team had meetings with key people who made us realize that it was God leading us to realize the need in each place, making potential fields to plant churches.

## **N for Need:**

\*In the center of Mexico exist a zone identified as the **circle of silence**, this zone includes 8 States: Jalisco, Zacatecas, Aguascalientes, Nayarit, Michoacan, Guanajuato, Queretaro, San Luis Potosi. In the Circle of Silence there are 115 towns with less than 1% of Evangelical Christians. This is the place with the fewest Christians in Latin America!

### **JALISCO**

- 8.35 million-Population
- 125 Towns/Municipalities
- Only 3.40% Evangelical Christians
- Towns explored in Jalisco
  - Zapotlanejo
  - Tepatitlan

- Ameca
- Tequila
- Tesistan\*- Most part of our team felt like this place seems like a potential place worth of continue the exploration. Small but growing as a suburb of Guadalajara. Many young couples and young families.
- Tonalá

### **NAYARIT**

- 1.25 million-Population
- 20 Towns/Municipalities
- Only 5.75% Evangelical Christians
- Towns explored in Nayarit
  - Ixtlan del Rio
  - Jala
  - Zitacua
  - Compostela
  - San Blass
  - Santa Maria del Oro
- **Testimonies**
  - People in different towns in Nayarit seem more open to the Gospel and to the idea of having Christian Churches planted in their towns.
  - **Zitacua**- is a Huichole community. They have their own temple where their traditional Huichole celebration and animal sacrifices and take place and spirits manifest. There is a great need of church planters and missionaries to this people. Vary dark place and much spiritual warfare. Huicholes is consider an unreached ethnic group. Our team had the opportunity to play volleyball and talk to some of the Huichole women and children.

### **COLIMA**

- 731, 391 Population
- 6.28% Evangelical Christians
- 10 Towns/Municipalities
- Towns Explored in Colima
  - Valle de Alvarez
  - Comala \* Christian Churches-None
  - Tecoman
  - Barra de Navidad
- **Testimonies**
  - Waitress in Valle de Álvarez: The morning after our team arrived in Colima, our team was having our daily devotional, when the waitress bringing coffee for everyone felt the touch of the Holy Spirit and began to cry when she saw us reading our Bible. Her name is Rachel. Maria had a conversation with Rachel, and she confessed to her that she was a Christian a long time ago and that she separated from the Lord by falling into the practice of quartz and crystals. She was feeling a strong need to return to Jesus. Our team ended up praying for her.

Days after our teams returned to our homes, Maria received a voice message from Rachel giving her the news that she had accepted Jesus into her heart and made a commitment to follow Him again. Having the waitress approach the group was a confirmation of the work that is needed in this place.

### **G for Gifting:**

- Angelica De La Cruz- Jalisco
- AFTER- Abraham & Elisa Primo from Coahuila: They would like to explore these places and are willing to go open new churches wherever they feel God is calling them to go. They have not yet defined the place, but the call for them as planters is very strong
- The five greatest gifts are required in a new church planting team (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers) in these 3 states with a low rate of evangelical Christians
- A team of 2-3 elements would be ideal for this pioneering work.
- Initially, people with a sociable, flexible personality, compassionate character and patience are needed.
- Initially, funds are needed to cover the support of the church planting families/elements. Since the beginning of these ministries would have to be very focused on building relationships with the locals.

### **O for Opportunity:**

- God, in his incredible way of doing things, has opened doors of opportunity and contact with key people in most of the places explored.
- Evangelical leaders, who are not from Friends, have shown interest in having fellowship and associating with us so that more evangelical works can be raised in these places. There is a strong sense of welcome from other ministries.
- There are many opportunities and ways to develop ministry in many of these explored places. There are good possibilities through opening businesses, community service, working with children, marriage restoration ministry, among others.

### **Is this a CAN GO for EFM at this time?**

- In the first place, EFM would be associating with the vision of the Friends of Mexico (this includes the two existing Yearly Meetings, one in the North and one in the Center), project VM32, of having a Friends church in each of the 32 states of the Mexican Republic for the year 2032.
- Mexico Yearly Meeting (Centro) has a broad vision of not only planting new churches in Mexico but also recruiting, equipping, and sending missionaries to other parts of the world. By EFM partnering with Friends in Mexico would be motivating, encouraging, and fueling the churches of Mexico to fulfill this worldwide vision.

**Which of the five criteria do we see the strongest? Which of the five criteria is yet to become convincing?**

Opportunity is one of the five criteria we see the strongest.

Gifting- We would like to see more potential candidates to be ready to be sent to these fields that are ready for harvest.

**Describe key points or stories in the process and affirmation/confirmation of God's call to Evangelical Friends to go to this particular people or place.**

- People in different towns in Nayarit seem more open to the Gospel and to the idea of having Christian Churches planted in their towns.
- **Zitacua**- is a Huichole community. They have their own temple where their traditional Huichole celebration and animal sacrifices and take place and spirits manifest. There is a great need of church planters and missionaries to this people. Vary dark place and much spiritual warfare. Huicholes is consider an unreached ethnic group. Our team had the opportunity to play volleyball and talk to some of the Huichole women and children.
- **Jalisco**- we count with several contacts that would facilitate the development of new churches

**What steps have you taken since returning from the trip or need to take in further discernment or exploration of this field?**

God has opened very good opportunities for us where we have been able to share with others about the exploration trip and talk about the needs that exist in each of the three explored states. We have already seen a response from people expressing an interest in exploring or supporting the launch of a new field in one of these places.

**Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM**

Out of the 16 explored towns, the team agreed that there are four towns with a strong potential to become new fields. This is due to the openness and receptivity that is felt in the local people, in the feeling of welcome by Christian leaders who are already working there, and because of the opportunities to open businesses, carry out community service, and be a blessing to the community. with help for young people and teenagers.

Jalisco- Tesistan and Zapotlanejo

Colima- Villa de Alvarez

Nayarit- Zitacua

Having explored 16 towns, and seeing the great need in each one, but reducing to 4 towns, it is necessary to carry out a future exploration to define the place where the new field would be starting. Starting the recruitment of people interested in going to one of these towns in Mexico to immerse themselves in the culture and win people for Christ would be an urgent matter.