

# MEXICO TRIP 2 CAN-GO REPORT

Trip Dates: April 24 to May 1, 2023

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## **C for Champions:**

### **Before:**

- Mexico YM- exploring places to be reached out for the fulfillment of the VM32 church planting project.
- Mexico North YM is 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 in a small town in Jalisco where there is no evangelical church present.
- 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 Nayarit to work among the Huichol people.
- Moscosa Gonzalez Family. Pedro and Sandy and their 6 year old daughter Aliso, are very serious praying and getting ready to go to Jalisco and establish a new church. There is a very strong calling to minister and follow up at the place and the work that LV Friends church has been doing so far in La Estanzuela Town in Jalisco.

### **During:**

- Sergio Armando Contreras- he felt a calling to serve among the Huichole People in Nayarit.

### **After:**

- Erik Nilsen has expressed interest in joining a team to serve in Jalisco.

## **A for Affirmation:**

### **PARTNERS**

- Both Mexico YMs (North and Central).
- Antony and Kimberly Doi (Nayarit)-Huichole Ministry.
- Pastor Martin and wife (not from Friends) - Huichole Ministry.
- Iglesia Amigos Las Vegas- By their annual visits, they have made a big impact at this little town and people, especially women are coming to Christ, and they are asking for a leader to continue ministering and following up with the new converts. There is no evangelical church of any denomination in this town or surrounding. Iglesia Amigos is willing to support financially any couple that would be willing to go to Jalisco.

## **N for Need:**

\*In the center of Mexico exists 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

- In La Eztanzuela Town- There is a group of believers gathering that are in great need of discipleship and leadership training. They need a leader able to help raise a formal church.

#### **NAYARIT**

- 1.25 million-Population
- 20 Towns/Municipalities
- Only 5.75% Evangelical Christians
- Huichole People concentrated in several towns. Huicholes are still considered an under-evangelized ethnic group. The people 30 years and under, seem to be more open to hear the gospel and read a Bible.

#### **G for Gifting:**

- Moscosa Gonzalez Family- They are feeling a strong call to go serve in Jalisco. Pedro and Sandi are currently preparing at the Biblical Institute. They are strong leaders and very active at their church in Mexico City. They seem to have preaching and teaching abilities.
- Erik Nilsen- Has expressed interest in joining a team. He has teaching gifts.
- Angelica De La Cruz- Nayarit
- The five greatest gifts are required in a new church planting team (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors, and Teachers) in these 2 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.

#### **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, and 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 as 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.**

Jalisco- we have several contacts that would facilitate the development of new churches. There exists a group of new believers in Jalisco waiting for God to send leaders and trainers.

**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 towns and cities we visited. We have already seen a response from people expressing an interest in supporting the launch of a new field in one of these places.

God allowed the first Future Missionary Retreat in Mexico to take place in August. 25 young people, from every Friends church in Mexico, were impacted and challenged to explore further and deeper a calling to missions or church planting.

**Luke 10 Team Recommendation to EFM**

Out of the different towns that were explored, the team agreed that one of the places with a strong potential to become a new field in Jalisco is Cocula. 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.

It is highly recommended that a new field be opened by sending a team to serve in the state of Jalisco, especially considering the city of Cocula, as a possible center of development for a new church and to also reach out to the many neighboring