



July 2018

Reaching Across Ministries

Financial report

Approximately \$7000 has been received to assist churches and \$4000 has already been distributed to the 3 churches reported here. Other churches will receive assistance as soon as an evaluation of their needs is completed.

Is it currently safe to visit churches across the border?

RAM does conduct workshops in all of the major cities across the border but only recommends the city of Acuna (across from Del Rio, TX) to churches that contact us desiring to send mission teams across. In this case, the groups stay in Del Rio at night and go across during the day.

Oak Hills Church has taken a group to Acuna in the last 12 months and other church projects are pending.

Worshipping in 100 degree temperatures is **HOT!**

Three of RAM partner churches have struggled with high temperatures inside their buildings and here is a report on how they have been assisted.

1- Church in Esmeralda, Mexico An open porch covering has been added here to serve as worship and fellowship area during the hot season. Part of the congregation is shown gathering on Sunday, and will also use it during their mid-week service. RAM is also engaged in helping with a formal neighborhood door to door evangelistic program that takes place every Saturday.



2- Children's mission in Acuna, Mexico Shown here are the children having to meet outside their building because of the heat inside. A donation has been made to secure air cooling units so they will be able to continue meeting inside. This mission started in 1997 and gathers about 80 children in two locations twice a week for Bible lessons. The missionary in charge attends RAM workshops and RAM and Cord Ministries (Florida) are the main US supporters of this mission.



3- Church in Allende, Mexico. Funds have been provided for insulation, restructuring room walls for better seating capacity, and installation of air cooling units. Church members are shown here working on the project. RAM also provides this church with material for neighborhood evangelism and home group studies.



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Update on the current ministry structure of RAM

This explains the sequential method currently used to assist pastors.

Step 1 Group meetings- Pastors are invited to attend interactive workshops to review basic studies related to church objectives, church structure and organization. Approximately 100 pastors have participated.

Step 2 Individual meetings- Pastors are contacted after the workshops to explore any individual challenges they may need help with regarding their roles as pastors.

Step 3 Partnering with churches- A select group of pastors is chosen to receive comprehensive assistance to their churches. This includes training assistance to their congregations and some financial assistance for facility improvements.

Note: RAM has had this basic structure for some time, but changes are incorporated periodically in order to meet the changing needs of the pastors as well as the resources of the ministry.



Reflections

It has been a long journey of learning for me and often the learning has come from unexpected “teachers”.

One was my father who knew my weaknesses better than anyone else. One day I asked him: what is the best advice you can give me, and he said, **“be consistent in your walk with the Lord”**.

Another was a missionary: when do you plan to retire I asked, **“I will serve until the day He calls me home”** she said.

Another was a Christian who had spent 8 years in jail. I asked him: do you no longer have any of the past sinful desires in you? **“Many are still there, but now I know what they are; whereas before I was blind, but now I see”** he said.

Another was a man whose wife left him for another man, but then he embarked on daily prayer for her. Then one day, while watching TV, the door bell rang, he went to the door and she was there saying: can I come back?

I asked him what he could share and he said: **“pray without ceasing”**.

Based on these “teachings”, I am wondering if your heart has been touched as mine has. From these ordinary people, purposely placed in front of me by the Lord, I have learned about consistency - the realization that God does not save us to become part-time followers. I have also learned that in living for God there is no “retirement”. I have also learned the value of recognizing my areas of temptations, and intentionally staying “away” using not my power, but the power of God from within me. And finally, I have come to realize that if I want to become fertile ground for God to pour out His seeds of grace on me, I must pray without ceasing.

Yes, often it does not take intensive biblical studying to hear God’s voice. He knows how to talk to us even when we are not looking for his advice. Thank you Lord!

Rick

