

# Adventure News

October 2007

What's Going on at Adventures in Life Ministry

Volume 10 Issue 2

## AIL Ministry Celebrates 15 Years

Organization Founded in October 1992

It was late October 1992 when Adventures in Life Ministry was founded with the simple goal of giving participants a chance to leave the comfort zone around their homes and serve God and His church.

When founders Dave Miller and Grady Martine were dreaming about what AIL would become and where it would serve, they kept coming back to Mexico. Over the years, each had led various trips with students into Mexico to serve and support the mission of the local church. Since both men had experience serving in the Baja California region of Mexico, Dave as a Youth Pastor and Grady as a Director for Young Life, the decision was made to concentrate on Mexico.

The first AIL trip was Veteran's Day Weekend in 1992 to La Mision, a small town between Tijuana and Ensenada, where they repaired the church roof. It was a joint trip with First Baptist Church of La Mesa and Trinity Baptist Church of Santa Monica. As that trip was being planned, both Dave and Grady realized that they were going to need someone who was able to speak Spanish and translate for the ministry. It was then that former Latin American Missions Missionary Paul Lathrop joined the AIL team. Soon after that first trip, Adventures in Life Ministry teamed up with Calvary Baptist Church of Gardena [now CrossRoad Church] to build a worship center in the nearby village of Santa Rosa. Santa Rosa is where AIL decided to be about building churches in Mexico and helping local congregations reach more people for Jesus through their ministries.

The ministry soon grew to serve in Guadalajara, Jalisco and Jala, Nayarit. Ministry continues to this day in the Guadalajara area with some of the same people who connected with AIL in those early days. In 1999, after numerous requests, AIL made the decision to visit Oaxaca in the southern part of Mexico to talk about ministry opportunities in that area. Participating in many church outreach events, medical clinics, building projects, and now agricultural co-ops, AIL is excited about what God is doing with the ministry in this southern and often neglected part of the country.



Mision Abarim ~ First church built by Adventures in Life Ministry and the crew from Gardena

## 2008 Oaxaca Men's Ministry Coming Up... February 16–23, 2008



2007 Oaxaca Men's Team

You arrive in Oaxaca on Saturday, February 16 and join a group of men from other churches to begin a week of ministry and discovery that you won't soon forget. Sunday you will visit Monte Alban, the ancient capital of the Zapotec Empire and Monday you head into the Tlacolula Valley to serve some of the recently planted Zapotecan churches of that area.

This year AIL is building a covered area where **Ebenezer Baptist Church of San Baltazar** can feed some of the poorest people in the region. Pastor Americo and Norma have a goal to provide at least one hot meal a day to the senior citizens of this city who are unable to work, and can go days between meals.

We will also be doing some final projects on the Zapotec Training Center in Tlacolula. This training center will soon be used not only in theological training, but as an agricultural training center for pastors and leaders as well. It is the hope of Adventures in Life along with local church leaders that through projects like this we

will be able to show Jesus' love and provision in some very real and practical ways.

The cost for the week of ministry is \$1000.00 plus airfare. Your fees include

all of your lodging, transportation in Oaxaca, most meals, and a guided tour of Monte Alban.

For an application to serve, please e-mail us at [info@ailministry.org](mailto:info@ailministry.org) as soon as possible.

**Thanks for a great week of ministry...I can't wait to return next year [2008].**

**Doug Fogg, Portland, Oregon**

## notes from dave...

dave miller is executive director of adventures in life ministry

Take a look at the list to the right of this column. Those names represent a partial list of the churches Adventures in Life has worked with in the last 15 years. Each one has a story, has helped people come to know Jesus, and in most cases is continuing to change lives for Jesus in and around their communities.

At some of these churches, we have built their worship centers. At others we have built Sunday School rooms, parsonages, or even, in the case of Iglesia Nazareño Shalom, a women's shelter. At some, we have repaired roofs, poured floors, and windows. At others we have done nothing more than help a few brothers from the church pour a concrete pillar or paint some walls.

Yet as we were doing what little work we could, whether it was building an entire worship center or pouring that one concrete pillar, we proclaimed the Gospel of Christ. Along with whatever group was serving with us at the time. I know that there are some folks in the mission world who devalue project ministries and refuse to accept what we do as actual mission, but to them I have a question.

**When people serve with us, do their deeds proclaim the Gospel?**

I believe they do. I have come to believe that more times than not, the way people actually live their lives speaks way more for the Kingdom than what people say. People can say over and over that Jesus loves you, but unless you see evidence in that person's life that they actually believe it and live it, you'll not be convinced. I believe this is what Jesus is talking about when he talks about our light shining before men.

***In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.***

**Matthew 5:16**

Most of the people who serve with us and have helped build those churches listed to the right are sold out for Jesus. They pay hundreds of dollars and come to give a week or two each year to do the work of God. I count it as one of the greatest joys in my life to have served with so many people who believe that they are answering God's call on their lives to serve and proclaim the Gospel.

And therein lies the paradox. Everyone of the more than 2500 people who have served over the years with AIL has helped us in some small way build His Kingdom. But the real building has not been done with hammers and nails. While we went to proclaim with our deeds, people saw Christ in the eternal relationships built through hours sharing stories, experiences, and lives. Relationships that God uses daily to exhort, encourage, and edify the body of Christ, both inside and outside of Mexico.

### AIL Ministry Sites

#### Baja California

Mision Bautista, La Mision  
Mision Cristiana, Santa Rosa  
Iglesia Fortaleza de Dios, Ensenada  
Iglesia Nueva Jerusalen, Camalu  
Dios es Amor, Ensenada  
Iglesia Bautista Esmirna, El Sauzal  
El Nuevo Nacimiento, Ensenada  
Nuevo Millenio, Ensenada  
Iglesia Cristiana Paz en Mexico, Guadalupe  
Iglesia Nazareño Shalom, Maneadero  
Mision Cristiana Indeco II, Ensenada

#### Sinaloa

Iglesia Peña de Horeb, Tamazula  
Iglesia Fortaleza de Dios, Las Pangas

#### Nayarit

Iglesia Cuadrangular, Jala

#### Jalisco

Iglesia Rey de Reyes, Zapopan  
Iglesia Bautista, Tepehuaje

#### Oaxaca

Mision Bautista, San Geronimio Tabiche  
Iglesia Bautista, San Antonio de la Cal  
Iglesia Bautista Ebenezer, San Baltazar  
Zapotecan Regional Training Center, Tlacolula

**Adventures in Life Ministry  
has moved. Our new offices are  
located in Las Vegas, Nevada.  
Please direct all future  
correspondence to the address  
below...**

**Adventures in Life Ministry  
2389-C Renaissance Ctr. Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89119  
702.255.2115  
www.ailministry.org**

## Prayer Requests for Adventures in Life and Our Ministry in Mexico

### Ensenada

- **4 new groups for the 2008 Ministry Year.** We currently have a few open dates for 2008 and want to get those dates full as soon as possible.
- **\$40,000.00 to build a new worship center for Iglesia Dios es Amor.** The facility we helped build 5 years ago is now too small for this young, growing church.
- **Full Funding for our newest AIL Staff Member, Camilo Macias.** Earlier this year the AIL Board approved the hiring of Camilo to help direct and manage our growing Mexico ministry. We currently need an additional \$6000.00 annually to pay his salary.

### Guadalajara

- **1 new group for the coming year.** We could really use 1 more church serving in this area to come alongside our ministry partners in the Guadalajara/Zapopan area.
- **\$40,000.00 to rebuild a parsonage for Pastor Raul and his family.** In January of 2006, Pastor Raul's 16 year old son was

in a car accident and paralyzed from the chest down. He has some movement in his arms, but his upper body motor skills are very limited. The family needs their home modified or rebuilt to accommodate a wheelchair and allow the family to effectively care for their son.

### Oaxaca

- **Guidance as we move into agricultural co-ops and micro enterprise ministry.** This ministry has the potential to really change lives today, yet AIL needs guidance and resources to move ahead.
- **Men for our upcoming ministry in February 2008.** This is a great opportunity for churches to get men involved in a ministry that will make a real Kingdom difference. Our goal is 25 men this year.
- **Strength for Missionaries Americo and Norma Reyes Santana.** Norma and Americo are serving in some very challenging situations in Oaxaca. Please pray for wisdom and discernment as they seek to serve in the Zapotec areas.