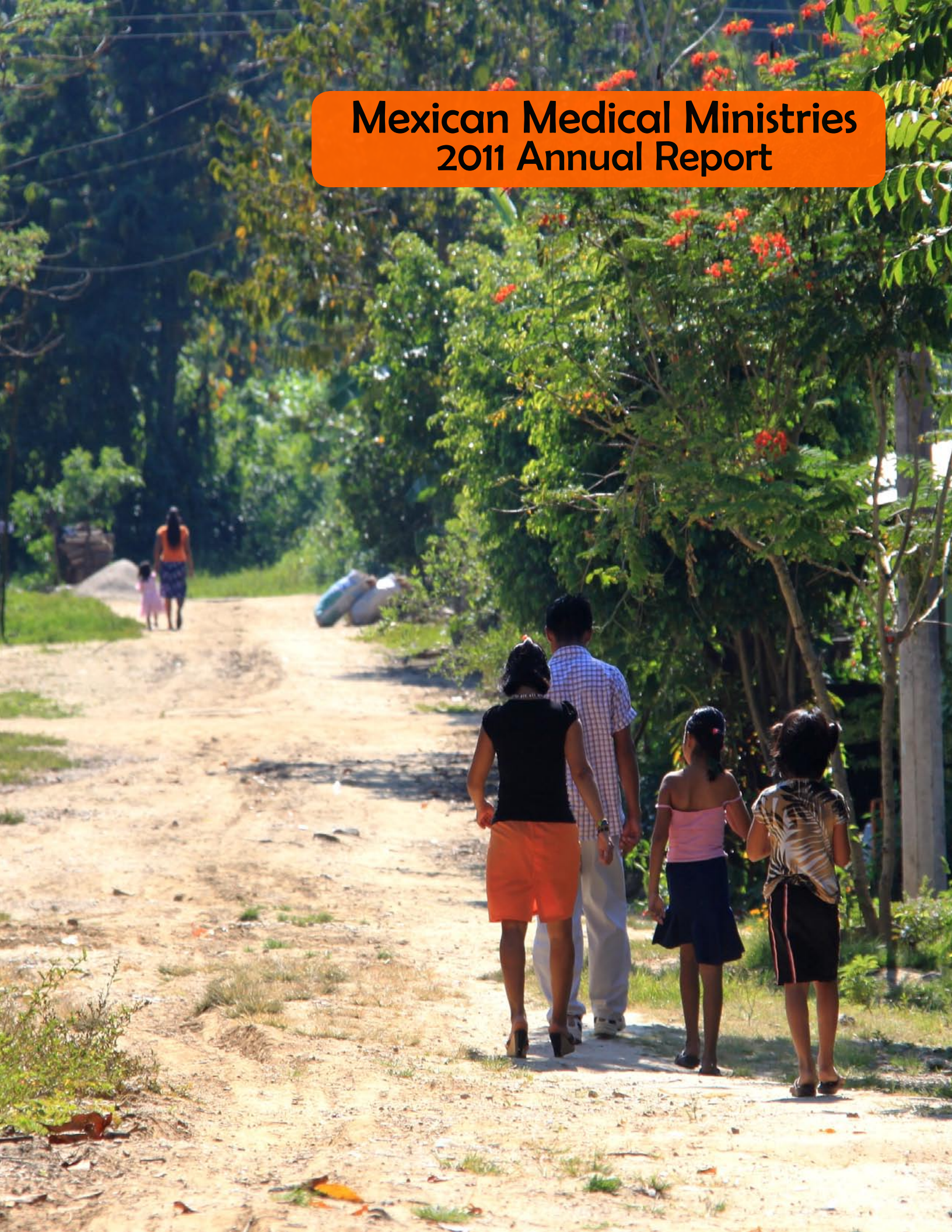


Mexican Medical Ministries 2011 Annual Report



From the President

In 2011, we saw the return of many teams from churches all over the United States and Canada. These churches have been impacted in recent years by the economic downturn, affecting their ability to support short-term missions. Many churches have also had great concerns over the safety of traveling in Mexico. Praise God that the reports of violence began to taper down. It was a great relief and joy that these churches chose to serve once again in Mexico and were willing to make financial sacrifices to come back and minister with us.

We rely heavily on volunteer team support, and through the help of these teams, we were able to complete some much-needed building projects—a new classroom facility was finished at our missionary Bible school (I.B.M.C.), a small warehouse went up to support our clinic in Cabo San Lucas, and, at Gabriel House (our home for handicapped children), 6,400 square feet of roofing was completed and 3,000 square feet of Astroturf was installed on their play yard. Gallons and gallons of paint were also used to enhance the beauty of all our facilities. All of this effort allows the missionaries to bless the Mexican people.

In John 15, Jesus describes his disciples as ones that bear a lot of fruit. This is, of course, a spiritual picture of the completion of work and the reward for diligence. As I traveled in 2011 to visit all of Mexican Medical's mission posts, I witnessed heaps of "fruit"—relationships that had begun years ago are strong, cooperation between ministries is flourishing, and Bible school students who started their studies three years ago are now in places of spiritual leadership. Another wonderful sign of fruit is the large number of Mexican volunteers working alongside our missionaries during medical outreaches—we now around three times as many local volunteers as US/Canadian medical team members! One of our goals had been to increase the number of medical outreaches, and I am blessed to report that we are now performing over 50 health fairs each year. All of these are healthy changes, indicating that the "tree" has good roots and gets plenty of water and sunshine, ensuring that there will be fruit in the next harvest season as well!

This year, two new board members joined our ranks and three new missionaries came on staff. During 2011, we had over 750 US/Canadian volunteers serve with us in Mexico. Our warehouse delivered over \$500,000 worth of health and ministry supplies, including more than 15,000 Gospel of John booklets to be used to spread the good news about our Lord Jesus.



In 2012, Mexican Medical will celebrate its 50th anniversary. We feel blessed to be a part of a group that has faithfully answered the call to serve in Mexico for such a long season.

Pastor Steve Crews,
President

Baja Church Sends Missions Team to Guaymas, Sonora

In late July 2011, the local church attended by MexMed missionaries Dave and Lynne Johnson in San Vicente went on a missions trip reaching out to another Mexican national church over 15 hours away in blistering hot Guaymas, Sonora. They were also joined by a small group from the US and Canada. Team member Victoria Fuller (Oakland, OR) shares her experience:

Guaymas sounded like the perfect mission trip. Or maybe not...

- Meeting the rest of our team only a day or two before we work together for a week? Yes indeed!
- Two days en route sandwiched in a cramped van with strangers? Included!
- Packing wisely (and lightly) with only the vaguest notion of what work we will do? Absolutely!
- Uncertain cultural expectations about how okay it is for adult women to do manual labor? Check!
- Temperatures around 100, complemented nicely with intense humidity? Covered!
- Mexican teammates who mostly speak little English? ¡Sí!
- Most USA/Canada teammates limited in español? Yep.
- Necessity of giving myself mental pep talks about the US contingent's supporting role ("I'm coming as a helper. Go with flow.")? Definitely!
- Having to sweet talk my middle-aged body ("Sleeping on concrete floors might not be so bad!")? Check!
- Paying hundreds of dollars for this privilege? Yep.

* * * * *

When MexMed missionary Dave Johnson first asked me to consider joining the Guaymas team, I had an easy out. "When? Oh, sorry, but I'll be teaching a college class then." When my class was cancelled, I still had plenty of other reasons why I couldn't go (see above list). The Spirit persisted, however, and I soon found myself googling "Guaymas tourism."

Despite the gorgeous scenery the web search unearthed, my primary motive in going was to applaud and support the San Vicente church's vision for the trip. A Baja church of about 100, this group has taken on bigger and bigger challenges in their annual mission trips. To raise finances, to plan and prepare for VBS and health fair, to secure dependable vehicles to carry 33 people nearly 1,500 miles round-trip through the desert — these were humanly impossible tasks. (Did you do the math? From a church of about 100, one third of the church participated! When was the last time your church sent a third of its body on a mission trip?)

But, led by Pastor Luis and his wife Marta, their church stepped out in faith, believed God would supply what they needed to obey His call, and worked like crazy all year long to do their part to be ready. God so obviously came through. He delivered!

God ministered to the Guaymas church as well. Sunday



morning, our combined US/Canada/Mexico team praised the Lord, led by a lively worship band. The local pastor, Roberto, preached a solid sermon to a crowd of only four locals, besides us. Thanks to enthusiastic PR, the VBS and health fair drew up to 50 people, including many adults. Many of those have loose connections to the church or send their children to Sunday school. One wheelchair-bound lady had not been out in public for months, but it was our team's privilege to carry her up and down a long uneven access, to and from the van. Several of her extended family members came along, and they even invited neighborhood kids.

The following Sunday, the Lord blessed Pastor Roberto and his wife América with the biggest attendance they've had during their time serving in Guaymas: twenty precious souls present to hear the Word of God!

God's Holy Spirit melded the two subgroups into a harmonious, joyful team. Language barrier? What language barrier? As each person was willing to risk looking silly, we not only worked together on the building and grounds, but we learned each other's stories. The Mexican team was far more organized than I had imagined beforehand. We "type A" Americans worked to graciously submit to their leadership, and God granted great fruitfulness in both tasks and relationships.

Oh, and the Lord ministered to me personally, as well—in ways both large and small. By virtue of my relatively advanced age, I scored a sofa for sleeping. It was actually fun to walk to the Sea of Cortez to fill five-gallon buckets with water to flush the toilet. Maybe Guaymas was the perfect mission trip after all.

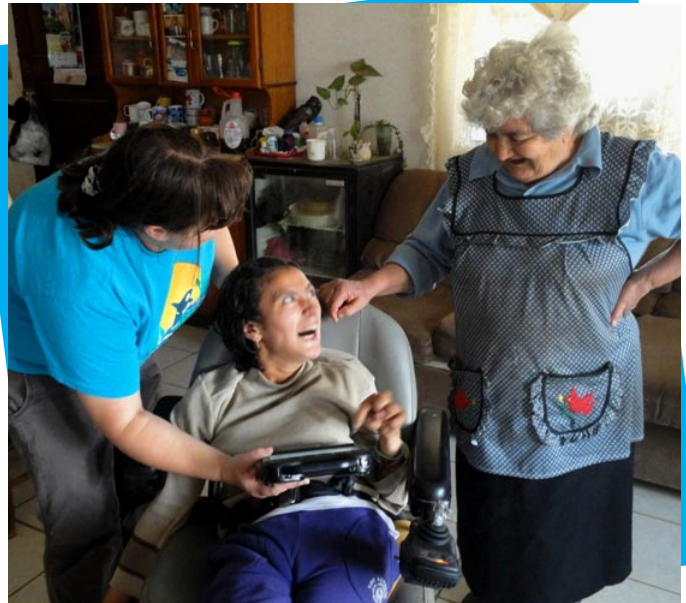
Young Woman Receives Gift of Speech

La Esperanza missionary Theresa Lewis writes:

There is a young woman in our village who suffers from severe cerebral palsy. Through the donation of an electric wheelchair, she went from living confined all day in her house to cruising around the village with her new set of wheels. Then, in February, we received a donated speaking device, called an Alt-Chat, for Anayensi, which consists of buttons that she can push, which will speak for her. This is groundbreaking for her, since there are still people in our village that don't realize that, mentally, she is fully functional. I've been working to help program the device and training Anayensi to use it. Over the last few months, we've been adding new buttons to increase her vocabulary.

With the help of our summer intern, Linda Beckmann, we have been taking pictures of our village and Anayensi's family, so that these are included in her device. Now, if she says "mother," there is a button with a picture of her mother on it. The other day we went around visiting her family, and she had the opportunity to use her device. She greeted her family members, and told them, "I love you" for the first time. Each time she talked with a different person from her family, her face lit up with the biggest smile. I have never seen her so happy before! She was also able to ask for a pear at the market, and told her nephew to put it in the pocket of her wheelchair.

In our later visits, I have been able to see that she is getting faster at saying hi and asking how I am. If she is sliding down in her chair, she will ask me to reposition her. The device has helped me to learn



more about her, too—that she loves pancakes, hates beans, and thinks the ocean is beautiful. Recently, Martita, a 14-year-old from our church, asked to go with me to visit her. Anayensi was so excited! We were able to have a conversation where Anayensi could openly participate too!

We are still working on some of the details, such as needing to "improvise" something to attach the device to her chair so it can be accessible to her and yet be stable as she drives her wheelchair around town. We pray that this gift of speech will have a life-changing impact for Anayensi, as she has the opportunity to communicate and express her thoughts with family and friends for the first time.

Surgical Teams

Sharing Christ's Love in Palenque

Dr. César Tamez (Tijuana-based missionary and MM board member) writes:

On February 26, team members flew from various states of the US and Mexico, all ultimately ending up in Villahermosa, Tabasco, then driving to Hospital "El Buen Pastor" (The Good Shepherd) 7 miles east of Palenque, Chiapas (near the Guatemala border). Yet, it was well worth the exhaustingly long day of travel to be able to be there to love and be loved by Jesus during the week.

This was our first missions trip to Palenque in 2011, nearly 26 years after we first began ministering to the area's Ch'ol, Tzeltal and Tzotzil ethnic groups that descended from the great Mayan people.

Oh, what a great time we spent with our co-laborers in Christ, old and young, remembering great times, building new relationships and exploring new opportunities to serve patients together.

Some of the cases were minor surgeries, others more major, and some were complex cases that really

(Continued on next page)

Health Fair at Santa Rosalía Prison

Loreto missionaries Don & Lorraine Karsgaard have been coordinating health outreaches at the Santa Rosalía State Prison twice a year for the past 4 or 5 years. Don reports on a recent trip:

At the beginning of each day for all of our teams, we have a time for Bible study and prayer. This time I felt led of the Lord to invite the new prison director to be present, as well as a few other members of his staff. I felt this would be an especially good opportunity to share with him about what it is that motivates us to do what we do in our health fairs, and what it is that we teach.

So I shared from Romans that though these prisoners committed their crimes, all of us (the guards, administrators and everyone else) are no different—we've all sinned! Then I shared how Jesus Christ has paid the penalty for our sins, and how it is our decision whether we wish to receive His free gift of salvation, or not. I shared that when we receive the gift of salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us, and He'll cause changes in our lives so that we will become better people in our communities. The Holy Spirit changing these men will be far more effective than any training or discipline that they go through.

Since we started coming to the prison a few years ago, we have noticed changes in the lives of some of the guards and prison staff. In fact, some of the staff that a few years ago were somewhat reticent to us and the ways we did things, have recently become our advocates, explaining to the new director that our programs and teachings

are really good for the prisoners, and that we should be given as much liberty as possible—praise the Lord!

Among the 130 inmates in this prison there are about 30 who have become Christians, and they meet daily for Bible study and worship—they even have their own 'church' in the prison. We're glad to be able to support these men and help them reach out to their fellow inmates. Pray for them, because it is not easy for them. They struggle in their new-found faith and they suffer persecution from many of the other inmates.

Pray for Fernando who leads these new believers in the prison. Previously a 'drug lord,' he's been in prison for 10 years, but he'll soon be released and fears being on the streets again. He wants to stand firm in his new faith and requests prayer. Thank you!



Surgical Teams

(Continued)

required us to draw on our combined knowledge, expertise and experience. We also evaluated three or four cases that we simply could not take and had to refer to a bigger hospital.

For the first time, I had to mediate and counsel an elderly Ch'ol couple that was confronting the tragedy of disease caused by the man's sinful sexual activity. Likewise, our last case was a 16-year-old young man with terrible condylomata (lesions from an STD) also caused by corrupted sexual behavior.

It was a very sad situation, but Jesus has the power, the love, and all that it takes to give health, freedom and

restoration. Medical treatment could only offer part of the solution; I counseled the boy first and later the whole family. I presented Jesus and the Good News to them, but they still have not made a decision. Please join us in prayer for this family—they need Jesus!!!

Sometimes we can't finish a trip with a triumphal feeling, but we always have the door open to come back to our Lord and Savior's feet and regain peace and strength to continue living our lives and seeking out those who are ready to receive the good seed. Join me in adoring the Only One worthy of all praise and honor, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, the Lord of all.

Tijuana Church Sees Fruit From Health Fair

Lupita Barajas (MM accounts payable) writes:

For the past 22 years, my husband Raúl and I have been pastoring a missionary church in Tijuana. During that time, the Lord has allowed us to plant baby churches throughout the Tijuana area, as well as in mainland Mexico, for a total of 36 churches. Recently, Raúl had a vision for the Tijuana churches to join together one day a month to serve at one local church and reach out to the surrounding community. We called this "IMPACT TIJUANA." When it was our church's turn, we asked Mexican Medical Ministries if they would partner with us and come do a mini health fair that day.

It seemed like a small request at the time, but as we were planning the event, it just got bigger and bigger. The Lord put together an amazing team of volunteers, and Craig & Kristi Libby did a great job as organizers. We told the people from our church that our goal was to serve our community and present the gospel, both by sharing from the Word and by bring healing and hope to them.

At one of the booths, Steve Crews (the president of Mexican Medical) was giving out glasses. One older lady came needing glasses and Steve found out she was not just near-sighted but also far-sighted as well, so he gave her a pair of glasses for each condition, and off she went.

At church the following day, one of the ushers came up to me and said that there was a lady outside the church asking to see the white gentleman who had given her the glasses. She was there to personally thank him because she was now able to see at both short and long distances. I went outside to greet her and tell her that he was not there but that I would let him know and that she was more than welcome



to come join us for Sunday worship. She came in.

At the end of the service, there was an altar call, and she walked down the aisle and accepted the Lord into her heart, tears of joy and gratefulness streaming down her face. I am so glad to report that she has come to every service faithfully since then. Her name is Norma, and she always shows up with a great smile and wearing her glasses.

A few weeks after the health fair, a gentleman showed up at one of our services. He had a flyer for the outreach event and told one of the ushers, "I couldn't make it that day; only my granddaughter went, but I am here today."

In addition to him and Norma, our church has two girls attending who came to Christ through the children's ministry at the health fair and four families coming faithfully who got saved at the evangelism booth. God is amazing—what we thought was a small request, He turned into a great praise report. Never underestimate His greatness!



GOD BLESSED 2011 IN THIS WAY

Volunteers

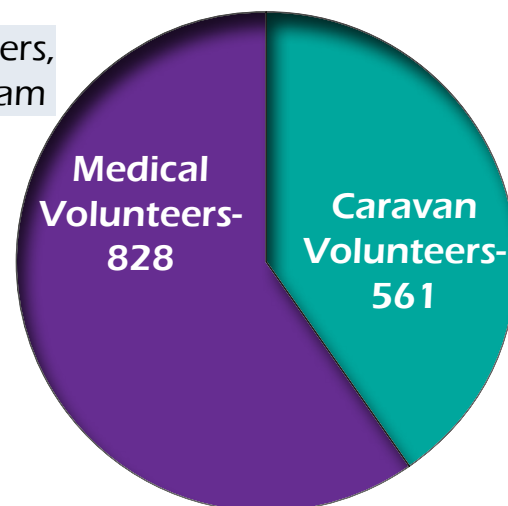
Mexican Medical was blessed by the many volunteers who sacrificed in so many ways to minister to people's spiritual and physical needs in Mexico.

A total of 1,389 individuals participated in caravan or medical teams with MexMed in 2011 (in addition to the over 400 volunteers who visited the Gabriel House during the year).

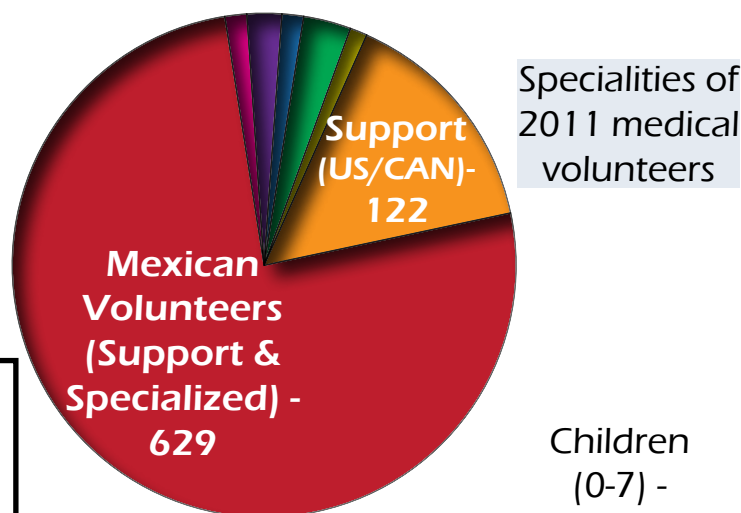
The short-term (caravan) teams that signed up to serve represented 9 states and 1 province, as well as approximately 8 different denominations.

We praise God for the 1,060+ people who made decisions for Jesus Christ at our medical team events this year, as well as for the countless others who came to the Lord through our other ministries.

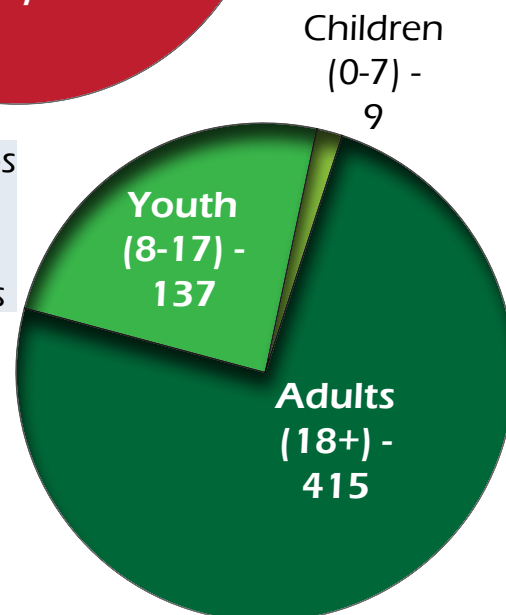
2011 volunteers,
by type of team



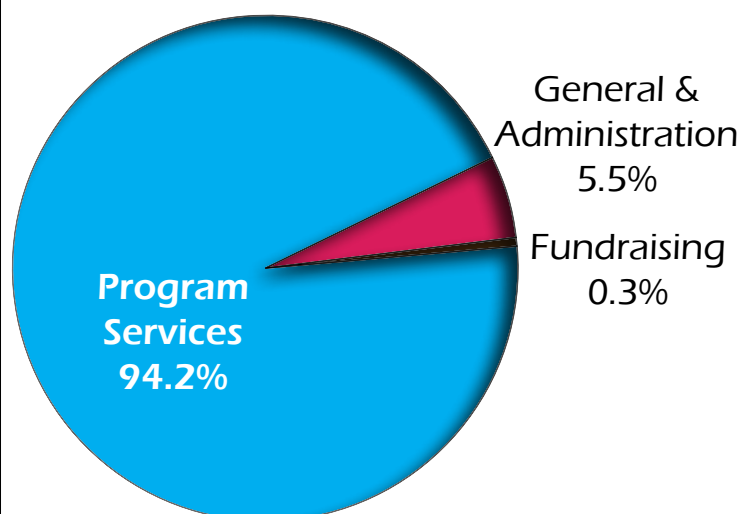
Specialities of
2011 medical
volunteers



Age groups
of 2011
caravan
volunteers



Expenditures



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Bringing healing and hope to the people of Mexico.



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