

Dear friends,

The congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery are happy to announce we will be again sponsoring a mission trip to Baja Mexico for 2022. This year's trip will be July 9 -16, 2022. Our mission is to work with the Oaxacan Indian people living and working in the area of Colonia Vicente Guerrero on the Baja California peninsula of Mexico. We will be serving these people as we build houses, but most important, spreading the love of Christ and building relationships that form across cultures.



This ongoing mission program of more than twenty years includes "rookies" and "veterans" alike. Spaces are available for approximately 60 people in 2022. Members of congregations of Shenandoah Presbytery as well as others participate. A commitment is needed from you to join us on this life-changing journey.

The reason for this mission is to build relationships and spread the love of Christ. Long-standing friendships form not only with the people we serve in Mexico, but also among participants. Serving together has built bonds between members of different congregations; youth groups teaming up with other youth groups for events; and members visiting other congregations for worship and special events.

Participants gain lasting and caring relationships with Oaxacan families. Our teams have been going to this same community for twenty years, and several congregations now are helping to support families for whom we have built houses in the past.

Many have accepted Jesus Christ during our weeks with them. But beyond a doubt, it is we, the members of Shenandoah Presbytery, who receive more than we give. This trip often is the first time someone has been out of the United States, and for many it is their first experience in a less developed country. It is an empowering experience, giving them the confidence to participate in other mission initiatives and giving them a broader world view by learning about the life and worship of Mexico and the developing world.

The easiest way to evaluate the success of the week is to stand in the circle of house builders and indigenous family members on the final evening of our builds as we dedicate the week, the house and ourselves to the glory of God, and hand the family the keys to their new home. There seldom is a dry eye in the desert dust. There is no way to place a value on such an experience.

It is estimated that 818 people have made this trip since 2000, representing 39 different congregations. We have built 59 houses for people who lived in dirt-floor shacks made of tar paper and plastic. We have built two school houses; a cafeteria; an addition to another house; rehabilitated a schoolhouse; re-roofed at least two other houses; helped with the construction of a church; and installed a water purification system. We have provided support to day care centers, churches, medical clinics, rehabilitation centers, work camps, missionaries, other families in need, and

ministers. We have paid for the funeral of a nine year old girl who died from falling out of a bunk bed; her family could not afford to bury her. You don't need any building experience for this trip!

Participants are responsible for their own travel costs incurred in the U.S. to and from San Diego, CA. Churches are encouraged to sponsor their members. The fees and costs in Mexico are raised through grants, donations, and fundraising.

Please share this information with all members of your congregation. All are invited to join in this life changing experience. If you have anyone interested in making this trip, please direct them to the FAQ and the registration forms online at <http://shenpres.org/baja-mission/> or call one of us to discuss this great opportunity. We also welcome those interested in fundraising, making donations of money toward this trip, donations of time to prepare for this trip and of course prayers for the preparation, safe travels and testimony that we have the ability to share.

**To learn more about our 2022 Baja Mission Trip please join us on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 2pm at Massanutten Presbyterian Church for our first meeting.**

In Missions,  
Baja Leadership Team

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