

Third Baptist Church Mexico Mission Trip Report

Third Baptist Church had the privilege of traveling to Tierra Blanca, Chiapas in Mexico from July 14-21. We took a team of 8 people: 4 college students, 1 youth, the College Pastor, an adult college teacher, and most importantly, our Hispanic Pastor. Third Baptist Church has adopted an Acts 1:8 model to our philosophy on missions. With that strategy in mind, we desire to partner with ongoing work in specific locations all over the globe, and use the resources, gifts, and abilities within our church body to minister to them. One of these locations is the ongoing work at First Baptist Church in Tierra Blanca. The pastor of this congregation became a believer at Third Baptist Church while working here in Murfreesboro, TN several years ago. Upon returning to Tierra Blanca, he planted a church and the Lord has blessed this congregation spiritually and numerically as many in the community have come to Christ through their ministry.

Because it is remotely located in Southern Mexico, it is very rare that any of them would ever meet someone from the United States. They received us with joy, as brothers and sisters with them in Christ. Our primary goal while on the ground in Tierra Blanca was to use our students from 3BC to serve the pastor and the ongoing ministry they have in place at First Baptist Church-Tierra Blanca. We began by building relationships with the families currently involved in their ministry by visiting their homes and sharing meals with them. This was an important aspect of our ministry as we displayed our unity in Christ and partnership with them in the gospel.

We also had the opportunity to visit the homes of several families for the express purpose of evangelism. We had the opportunity to share the gospel with 12-15 individual families, and we were amazed at the gratitude that almost every family showed us during these visits. In conjunction with our evangelism visits, we also conducted evangelistic services each night while we were in Tierra Blanca. Between the services and home visits, we saw 12 professions of faith. While we certainly entrust these people to the Lord, we also have connected them to Pastor Olivio for follow up and discipleship.

Another way we were able to serve the people of FBC-Tierra Blanca was to deliver things to them. Because of the poverty in Tierra Blanca, there are many basic necessities of life they do without. We were able to deliver medicine, clothes, Christian literature, Bibles, and other supplies to them. At the end of the week, most of us left all or most of our clothing and bags with the members of FBC-Tierra Blanca.

The entire mission trip made a huge impact on our team, as well as the people of Tierra Blanca. There were heartfelt tears shared by everyone as we said our goodbyes. However, because of our partnership with them, we promised to return to them soon. On behalf of Third Baptist church, I want to thank the Concord Baptist Association for their generous gift that provided the opportunity for several students to have this mission experience.

By God's Grace,



Dave Odom

Associate Pastor to College and Single Adults
Third Baptist Church