

CHURCH PLANTING IN MEXICO



Marcos G. Ramírez Montalvo

La Roca de Mérida BFC. Pastor
Calle 32 # 345 entre 7 y 9 col. San Pedro Uxmal
Mérida Yuc., México. 97203
999 2169446
ramcas94@hotmail.com

Mission trip to Tapachula with family

For several months I have joyfully received some pictures and brief reports about what God is doing with a small group who gets together for studying the Bible in Tapachula, a city located almost 700 miles from where I live. By God's grace, last May I had the opportunity to go to Tapachula along with my family and visit the people who attend the Bible study led by our brother Immer Molina. The group is in the process of becoming a church plant, God willing. It was exciting finally to meet them in person, since I only knew them from photos. It was really a great joy to talk to them, eat together, laugh together and share unforgettable times of fellowship which will remain in our hearts. We worshiped the Lord together on Sunday morning in an emotional service, where we praised God with songs, prayers, biblical readings, and also, we had a time for studying the word of God. The Lord also allowed us to know the stories of faith and salvation of some of them and how God is working in their lives.



One of the purposes of this trip was to look into how and in what way this group is committed to planting a church in this city. I had interesting conversations with some of them about the city and its spiritual needs, as well as the main challenges to plant a church with sound doctrine. Tapachula is the second largest city in the state of Chiapas with over 300,000 inhabitants. It is located on the southern border of Mexico next to Guatemala. It has been the entry city for migrant caravans from Central America which have been joined by African and Haitian migrants. Several of them have stayed to live in Tapachula. In Tapachula you can find many evangelical temples or worship meeting places, however, most of them are groups that preach a false prosperity gospel and doctrines of men. As in many places in Mexico, in Tapachula, churches of sound doctrine committed to preaching the true gospel are needed. God has put in our brother Immer's heart a strong desire to plant a sound Bible church in his homeland and for over a year he has been leading a Bible study with God's help.



On this visit I came upon a very lively group who is eager to study the Bible in order to learn more about God and his gospel. I also could identify a core group committed to serving God and willing to join God's work of planting a church in Tapachula.

Although I have conversations with Immer very often by phone and text messages, during this trip we were able to talk more about the family and personal situations of those the Lord are bringing and adding to the group, as well as the challenges and ministerial concerns that Immer faces as he shepherds the flock.

The group has also increased in number. They get together in some houses so far, but because more people are coming, even with young children, a larger and comfortable place is needed. Let us pray that the Lord will open doors and lead them to that large and strategic place for meetings if it is His will.

The group meets twice a week, on Sundays and Thursdays. God has raised and called Daniel Solórzano with a great commitment to serve the Lord and now he is leading the Bible study on Thursdays. We rejoice and thank God for Daniel's life.

Without a doubt, my family and I were very blessed on this mission trip. We were able to meet new brothers in Christ, see what God is doing there and enjoy the beautiful landscapes of the state of Chiapas.

We praise the Lord for his work in Tapachula!

Prayer requests

- Pray for discernment and wisdom for Immer and his wife Ana in dealing with issues and situations of the people who are coming to the group and being able to lead them to Christ.
- Pray for strength and wisdom for Immer in order to balance his bivocational life.
- Pray for Immer that he may find quiet times to complete his Open book test. This is an important step in advancing forward to get a church plant in Tapachula.
- Pray for wisdom for Immer and Ana in their marriage so that they can be an example of love and faithfulness to the group.
- Pray for the consolidation and maturity of the group of believers who attend the Bible study.
- Pray for Daniel Solórzano who will be in charge of the Bible study on Thursdays.
- Pray for a large and comfortable place for meetings.



Immer and Ana Molina



*Immer and Daniel in Acts 29
Guatemala*