

BAJA PRESBYTERIAN MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

Since 1970

Tijuana • Mexicali • Tecate • Ensenada • San Jose del Cabo

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Summer 2010

Looking Forward: Five New Missions Envisioned to be Built in Baja California

At its regular bi-annual meeting in April, the **Presbytery of the Northwest Border of the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico** voted to proceed with plans to start five new missions in Baja California.

The sites include **Tijuana** and **Ensenada** where Mexican Presbyterian churches already exist, plus **Rosarito** (south of Tijuana), **San Quintin** (about 150 miles south of Ensenada), and **Cabo San Lucas** (at southern tip of Baja California).

In most cases, funds to purchase land or buildings and to remodel or construct new sanctuaries or fellowship halls will come from the **Roland and Kay Taylor Memorial Trust Funds** invested with the Presbyterian Foundation. Details of the payment schedules will be worked out with each current property owner. BPM oversees the spending of interest payments from the Taylor funds.

Sheila Mura is New Representative to BPM from Presbyterian Women

A former Spanish teacher, **Doris Scoville** of Faith Presbyterian has ably served BPM as representative of Presbyterian Women for more than 10 years. The new rep is **Sheila Mura** of Northminster Presbyterian, who is also a Spanish-speaker. Thank you, Doris! Welcome Sheila!

TIJUANA
ROSARITO
ENSENADA
SAN QUINTIN
SAN JOSE DE CABO

The exception is the new site in San Quintin, the Mount of Olives Church, which is fully operational, having been started by a Korean Presbyterian businessman. "Our board applauds the Presbytery's vision for growth over the long term," said BPM President **Bob Battenfield**. "We encourage the Mexican Presbytery to take note of the path of progress in Baja -- where new investment is being made to build new hotels and restaurants that will attract a labor force, many of whom are from Chiapas and Oaxaca where Presbyterian missionaries were most active decades ago with the result that many of the the people who come to the border seeking work from those southern Mexico states already are Presbyterians."

The new mission in Tijuana will be an outgrowth of an effort by Pueblos Hermanos' co-director **Rev. Enrique Romero** to start cell groups in neighborhoods. Funding for the home Bible Study groups is provided by **La Jolla Presbyterian Church**. Also pastor of Monte Sinai Mission, he receives a salary supplement from the Taylor Fund.

Call is Made for Increase in Donations for Supplemental Salary Support for Mexican Pastors

As we pass the mid-year point, donations from churches and individuals to our general operating budget are "in the red" -- running about \$7,000 short of breakeven, according to BPM Treasurer **Jack Shelver**.

"These are hard economic times and we are feeling the pinch as are other nonprofits," he said.

Shelver called upon donors and potential donors in the Presbytery of San Diego and throughout Southern California to consider increasing or initiating contributions to Baja Presbyterian Missions at this time and in the next calendar or fiscal year.

"Baja Missions is an effective use of your mission giving dollar," he emphasized.

Currently BPM supports eight pastors, five in Tijuana, two in Mexicali, and one in Ensenada. Funds pass through BPM to support two more pastors.

BPM Newsletter to be Emailed

Would you like to receive this newsletter via email? Opt in via email to colleencarr@bajapresbyterianmissions.org, and it will save money on printing and postage. Thanks for your support!

Baja Presbyterian Missions, an endorsed project of the Presbytery of San Diego, is your church's bridge to working with your brothers and sisters in Christ south of the border.

Fruit of the Vine Baja Day Trip



Rev. Robelio Roblero, pastor of La Nueva Jerusalem Church in Ensenada, discussed mission outreach efforts by his congregation.



PCUSA Fundraiser Colin Cruickshank, Bob Battenfield and EP Clark Cowden at the Mirador View Point on the toll road to Ensenada.



Fruit of the Vine Baja Day Trip was the 9th Presbytery of San Diego Baja Missions Tour – and the first to stop at a restaurant for lunch and a winery in Guadalupe Valley.

Christmas in July? Just Getting Organized

For many years now, Baja Presbyterian Missions has offered a wonderful outreach to the Mexican families in the congregations we support in Baja. It is our Christmas Gift Program.

By early November, participating U.S. churches are assigned a Mexican church and receive lists of the children by name, age and sex. Members of the churches select a child to purchase an age appropriate gift for, wrap it, and place a sticker on the outside showing Juan 6 or Julia 3, and the name of the Mexican church. Then the week before Christmas the gifts are collected, bagged and delivered to Chula Vista Presbyterian, where the Mexican pastors come to pick them up to transport them across the border.

More U.S. churches are needed to meet the growth of the Mexican congregations. Last year's participants were Chula Vista, El Cajon, Fletcher Hills, Graham, La Jolla and Westmorland. To help spread the joy of Christmas south of the border, contact us at 619-469-6101 or colleen.carr@bajapresbyterianmissions.org

Get Ready -- "Bread of Life" Baja Day Trip Mission Tour Planned for April 2011

Following up on our "Fruit of the Vine" Baja Day Trip of last April, Baja Presbyterian Missions will offer a day trip on the theme "Bread of Life" in April 2011.

"This Pan de Vida tour will start with a visit to one or more bakeries in Tecate," said BPM Secretary **Colleen Carr**. "The town is known for its great bakeries. We'll get a behind-the-counter look at how these delicious, traditional breads and pastries are prepared and baked," she said.

Pan de Vida
April 2011

Tentative plans for the Pan de Vida Baja Day Trip are to meet at Fletcher Hills Presbyterian, visit the bakery and Bethel Church in Tecate, have lunch at a church in Tijuana, and visit an additional Tijuana church before returning.

More information will be confirmed and published in our Winter 2011 edition of this newsletter, and at www.bajapresbyterianmissions.org, or call 619-469-6101.



Baja Presbyterian Missions, Inc. Executive Committee and Board Members

Mission Opportunities...Not Far From Home

Join us and take part in a wide variety of mission activities -- foreign mission activities -- not far from home!

Call (619) 469-6101 or email bobbattenfield@bajapresbyterianmissions.org for more information.

Visit our new website:
www.bajapresbyterianmissions.org

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