

Spring 2009

Mexico Missions

“Every year thousands of students make the trek from all over the world “

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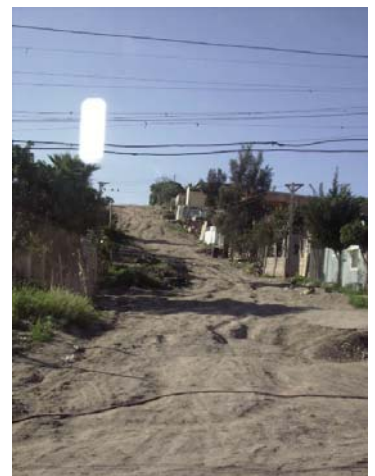
BBC Missions Committee

Mission to Mexico

Under the umbrella of SunWest Church Fellowship and AMOR Ministries, BBC's Desirae, Gerard, Karen, Sarah and Andrew joined with 122 other students and adults, and left for sunny Tijuana in March 2009 during their Spring Break, to offer their services in sacrifice to help build homes for families who have extremely inadequate or no dwellings in the ghettos east of Tijuana in Tecate, Mexico.

“Every year thousands of students make the trek from all over the world to join with the churches and pastors of Tijuana to build homes for families struggling in poverty.” Desirae made her first trip there this spring with some of her family and fellow youth. “It was a really scary thing to say YES I will go – and yet to actually know you were going all the way on a bus from Calgary for 43 hours to San Diego, then over the border out of the USA into Mexico!”

“This is a photo of a typical street in the ghetto or barrios as they call them in Tecate that we had to climb every day. Building supplies were taken up by a pick-up truck but when it rains, nothing can get up these streets as they become slick with mud. Thankfully it never rained when we were there but we were always concerned it might.”



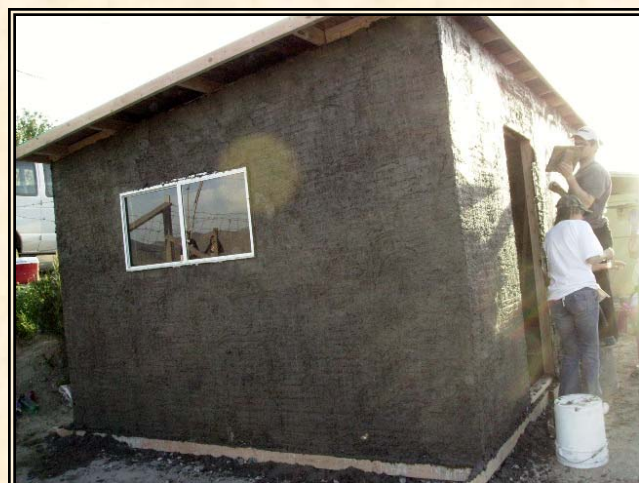
Karen made her first trip as well, and as an adult she experienced life 24/7 with almost 100 teens, and a first-hand glimpse of what mothers in Tecate have to cope with. "I realized as soon as I saw the poverty that our teens were going to have a real shock seeing how these children, who have next to nothing, cope with everyday life in this barrio. Most have no TV, no Nintendo, no hockey, no bikes...and little or no homes, barely enough food and little hope for much more. Very sad. The rotting lean-to outhouses made me feel more than lucky for indoor plumbing. I was very glad to be there to help."



Starting with building a cement foundation the very first day Andrew knew this would be a tough job. At age 15 Andrew had already been on 2 other mission trips and helped his dad build homes in Guatemala the year before. Gerard, who went for the first time and who worked with Andrew on the same site, said "Andrew is awesome. He knew a lot and he worked really hard. Later when we put up the walls he nailed everything together like a pro. We all were very happy to have Andrew on our crew!"

This is a photo of a nearly completed house in Tecate. 11 x 22, this garden shed sized dwelling may sleep up to 15 people from the family and extended family they have.

The volunteers are placing the 2nd last of 2 coats of stucco that will protect the home from the elements – summer and winter.





Desirae with her new family friends from Tecate knows they will be more protected in their new home.

Taking time for a rest, these teens feel proud to be Calgarians helping others so that they have a chance in life – just like them.



Short Term Missions like this are possible only through the gracious care and planning, supervision and funding by individuals, corporate sponsors, SunWest Christian Fellowship, AMOR Ministries and Bonavista Baptist Church - BBC. The Missions Committee of BBC wish to take this opportunity to thank God for Sarah's, Andrew's, Desirae's, Gerard's and Karen's safe return to Calgary, but also to thank God for allowing them to be the mouthpiece, the witness, for so many who have no voice – no power – in this world.

BBC works through many other viable and important faith-based charitable groups in and around the world. If you'd like to know more, we invite you to visit our entire missions' web site www.bonavistabaptist.com and see how others are making a difference in the lives of so many others.