



February 2020

Highlights from Last Month!

Beach baptism - We welcomed Yeison, Wili, Nataly into the family of God. More than a symbolic, traditional practice in Mexico, baptisms offer a means to reinforce the true gospel message with attendees. Food and fellowship followed the ceremony.

The church van underwent replacement of inferior metal pieces that have rusted. Most all metals rust rapidly in this climate. New parts are repainted, salvaging the church logo design that people see when the van is driving around town. It reads "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." with a silhouette of a light house, fitting for Mahahual. The van is ready for lift off again... providing transportation to church functions to those who may not have it. ¡Viva la Van!

The church building project is ramping up! Columns have been erected. Cement base is projected to be poured the following Thursday. Many more updates to come as the plan unfolds.

The Yucatan peninsula is chock full of gorgeous tropical woods that are sold at a very low cost here compared to the states. Pictured below is a lumber yard in a village near Mahahual. Exploratory trips are being made to stake out choice wood to make church pews for the new sanctuary.





¡Día de los Reyes Magos! We celebrated Epiphany with the Latino (and inherently Catholic) tradition. The holiday when Christ was revealed to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi is celebrated with pinatas, gifts for children, drink, food and fellowship. The generosity of one stateside congregation provided children with gifts on the day they may not have otherwise received. The annual ring of sweetbread, called Rosca, is partitioned to attendees. Multiple tiny plastic baby Jesus dolls are hidden in the loaf. Whoever gets a slice with the doll has to make tamales on February 2nd! This year admin coordinator, Meghan, got one. We will see if she makes tamales. In preparation, some mothers in Pulicub, a remote area on the beach, teach her how tamales are made. Meanwhile Chris, our ESL teacher and educational director, teaches the children of the women there. They would otherwise not receive any formal education. The fathers are out fishing!



Sunday, January 26, we celebrated Pastor Valleskey's birthday with the congregation by partaking in a classic tres leches cake after the service. Another year younger, Pastor cuts the cake!



Volunteers! Wonderful students from Martin Luther College, Wisconsin Lutheran College came to the mission to share their time and talents in many areas, primarily helping with a modified version of our escuela program (bringing education to children who don't attend school). Most recently, adults from congregations in the Green Bay and Appleton areas graced us with their life skills in the areas of loving the people here, cleaning, organization, handy-man maintenance, nursing knowledge, and much more. One day they made sandwiches for the construction workers on the new church building project!

