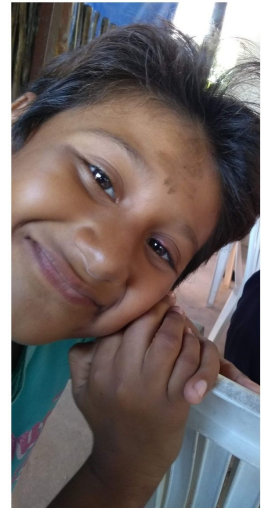




**March 2020**

## **Ash Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday service took place as usual this week. Most attendees were children, whose malleable minds heard the concept of sorrow over sin, repentance and God's pardon. Attendees received the mark of ashes on their foreheads as a solemn, yet intriguing, reminder



## **Welcome, Baby Julian**

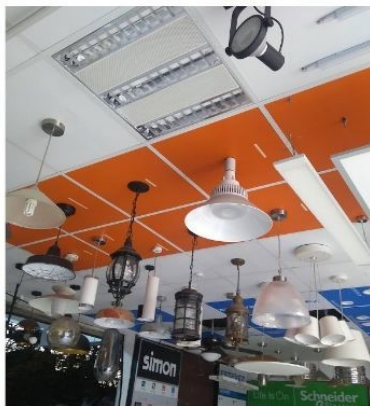


In mid February Cruz de Cristo welcomed baby Julian into God's family through baptism. Pastor Valleskey met with Julian's parents, Guillermo and Mayte, prior to the ceremony to review the purpose/need for baptism. The family regularly attends Sunday worship, and Guillermo drives the church van on the weekends to transport people in remote areas to church functions. Much of Guillermo's immediate family is integrated in the church in various ways. Welcome Julian!

~ Meghan Mortenson

## **All in a Day's Work for Our Pastor**

In addition to overseeing the new church construction, Pastor Valleskey recently traveled to Merida, a large urbanized city 5 hours away, to process passport proceedings. Capitalizing on the opportunity, he met with local contacts (provided by the Lord) who showed him sources and stores for interior and exterior design. Peer with us into the future of finishing touches.



## Jerry Says .....



"Hola" to all praying and supporting Costa Maya Ministries. Construction on Cruz de Cristo Church and Lighthouse Community Center is now well underway. We had a slow start waiting for plans and permits--not an unusual thing for Mexico, so we're a little behind schedule and budget, but now things are really starting to roll!



Our construction manager, Kevin Daley, has his crew digging footings, pouring grade beams, forming columns and roughing in for plumbing and electric. We have decided to use foam blocks that will be filled with concrete for the exterior walls. It's a system that has not been used much in Mexico yet, but it should allow quicker and easier construction and provide better sound/heat barriers. In the next few weeks the steel roof system should start taking shape and be under cover and ready for interior work by late May.

Start making your plans to join us down here soon! Beyond that, your prayers and gifts will be much needed and appreciated as we continue with this wonderful blessing the Lord has bestowed on His people here. Thanks for all the prayers and support thus far.

## Applause for Chris

We want to give special recognition to on-site educational director, Chris Dean, for his thoughtful, consistent teaching of English and basic education to an array of people here from 4 to 60+ years. He also shares messages from God's word with the kids on Saturday mornings, participates in Tuesday evening Bible classes, and fraternizes with people of all walks of life. He brings lighthearted humor to his classroom and levity to the daily grind. Thanks, Chris, for all you do and bring to our team and the people the mission serves in Mahahual!



## Regular Life

Enjoy a few photos of local phenomena: Mini brush fire in lot next to church is extinguished by locals and the bomberos (firefighters). Most recent volunteer group from De Pere, WI, area enjoys pan dulce (sweet bread - a common morning/evening snack here) from a vendor and his bike cart. Dan Thiel, one of these volunteers, facilitates a kite making and flying workshop on his last day here. See the kites soaring up in the sky from the beach breeze! One Friday's soup kitchen meal was prepared by a community member who wanted to help the church in some way. Attendees enjoyed cochinita pibil (specially marinated pulled pork with local sour orange juice and other spices) - a change from the normal soup rotation. Wilma and her daughters, Lucia and Estefania, are delighted to receive belated Christmas-King's Day gifts. They came to a new women's Bible study early and were pleasantly surprised. The gifts came from stateside followers, like you. Wilma mentioned that her girls hadn't received any gifts this year, so they were tickled pink to receive some still remaining at the church. Thank you to all for your varied support of the mission here! Lord's blessings to you all this Lenten season.

~ Jerry Zimplemann

