

“Two Church Concept”

Hands and Feet Ministries, Inc.

The Mexico Missions Program is based on the “two church concept”. The “two church concept” is quite simple and as the name implies involves two churches, the local church and the mission church. We, who are rich in resources, build the mission church for those who are poor in resources. The mission church, which is generally worshiping the open air and overcoming many hardships, is rich in spirituality and we can increase ours by interfacing with them for the workweek. We physically build their church while spiritually building our churches.

The King will reply, "I'll tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me". Matthew 25:40

In addition to exposing the team to the spiritual environment one finds in the third world church, the concept requires the local church to engage in spiritual activities such as praying, writing letters of love, caring for families, raising funds, meditating, and participating in the sacraments. It begins with the desire to further the gospel of Jesus Christ through mission. We assume that you have this desire since you are thinking of going on a mission. Let's say you have 12 missionaries that have volunteered. At the first team meeting have each missionary recruit three or four prayer partners to begin immediately praying for him or her. Have these prayer partners begin attending team meetings. Now you have nearly 50 people supporting the mission and involving themselves in the spiritual activity of prayer.

“Home watch teams” should be formed to look after the missionaries homes and families during the mission period. This may involve babysitting, mail and newspaper collection, or even cutting the grass. What a joy to return from a mission after a long and tiring week, expecting to cut your grass, and discover the blessing someone gave you. Now we are approaching 75 people supporting the mission and involved in spiritual activity.

The “two church concept” believes in utilizing the existing church structure to accommodate the mission. In most mission instances, some amount of money is needed for materials or other expenses. This should be a special fund raising event directed in such a manner that contributions of one or two dollars can be recorded. Maintain a list of contributors or mission participants. It should be such that even the biblical “widow's mite” can be recorded. Also givers should be asked to begin praying for the team and the project. Now we should have involved in the mission.

A prayer vigil and worship service should be held to cover the team while traveling to and from the mission location. Now the entire church should be involved in spiritual activity. When you commission the team, have the prayer

partners stand behind their missionaries. Have those home watch teams stand along with the prayer vigil people and finally have all those who participated in the financial aspects to stand and if anyone is still seated ask them to stand and commit to prayer. Now you have the entire church giving, working, praying and risking themselves in the Lord's work. This means spiritual growth. Commission your team and we recommend making this a communion service.

When the team returns, a victory celebration should be scheduled. The slides of the project should be shown and testimonies given. We have heard testimonies that a burden of prayer was placed on one of the prayer partners just as his or her missionary was experiencing difficulty. So be prepared for testimonies from other than the missionaries.

Like the Gospel, "the two church concept" is quite simple, but we have found that it works. Simply use the mission as another reason to get your congregation involved in spiritual activities and watch them grow. Your returning team will have grown spiritually because they also will have been involved in the spiritual activities of work, giving, prayer, the sacraments, witnessing Jesus Christ, and seeing practical Christianity at work.

After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosperous again and gave him twice as much as he had before. Job 42:10