

Summary of Church Meeting **September 24, 2006**

Opening Prayer & Remarks

Pastor Joyce commented that we're calling these gatherings "Church Meetings" and not "Church Business Meetings" because too many of us have negative feelings and memories associated with the words "Church Business Meetings." Also, we're not a business, we're a church! We're about people and their relationship with Jesus and with each other. So we gather periodically to discuss lots of items, some that deal with finances, and hopefully we all leave with a sense of furthering the work of God's Kingdom . . . and not who's mad at whom!

In keeping with that theme, we reminded each other to respect one another's viewpoint. To not take things personally. To count to 10 before we spoke if we felt ourselves becoming defensive or angry. And to use I statements.

Missions

Ana Rodriguez reported that at this time there were no women in the shelter. She still had 200 pesos left for supplies from June.

We all acknowledged that responding to Hurricane John victims with dispensas of food and clothing was well received, although we'd like to be more intentional in our evangelical outreach. Not just respond as a social agency. Discussed getting Spanish tracts or New Testaments to place in each dispensa bag. Susu mentioned that she had a bunch of "coins" with John 3:16 printed in Spanish that could be used too.

We agreed to donate 3500 pesos of our Mission Tithe to the Mission in Marquez de Leon to assist in the repair of their roof. This Mission is connected with the church Centro de Fe who will spearhead the project. We also committed to praying for this tiny church (about 25 people), Pastor Francisco, and their colonia.

Finances

Jean Stratford presented a financial report. Statements for July through September are posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer. Right now the church records are using the program Microsoft Excel and are on Jean's and the Reed's home computers. QuickBooks, a more efficient program, has been donated to the church, and Jean plans to start using this program beginning January 2007.

Iza Buentello presented different options for opening a church bank account. Bancomer and Banamex present the most likely choices. She, Rodolfo Rodriguez and Fidel Herrera have all agreed to be co-signers on the account. Since 2 people are needed to sign the checks, it was decided that we need to ask one more person to be a co-signer to give us more options. (*Note: Erle Radel was asked by the Pastors to be the 4th person later in the week. He agreed. These four persons opened an account at Banamex on September 30, 2006)

Letter to become a Church

We're still gathering signatures for our letter to First Baptist about our desire to move from a status of "mission" to "church." Will present the letter when that piece is completed.

Crossroads Publicity

Publicity cards for the worship service are being distributed around town. We added El Arco to the list of locations. Jean Stratford will investigate the cost of advertising on the lit signs some have seen around town. Jenny Radel is keeping tabs with the Gringo Gazette. Someone mentioned that we could post information on the Baja Insider website for free so will investigate that possibility too. Stefen West is designing a website for Crossroads. Crossroadslapaz.org

Bi-lingual Service

After discussion about the idea of an additional bi-lingual worship service, it was decided that this was not our primary purpose at this time. For now, we are primarily reaching English-speaking people. However, integrating songs in Spanish, Bible Readings in Spanish, prayers, etc. is appreciated and helps us all grow in our Spanish-speaking skills.

Building

1. Refrigerator: still needs to get to somewhere for a quote to repair. Milton going to purchase the little one from the church when the big one is repaired. At our June 25th meeting, we agreed to spend 1600 pesos towards this repair.
2. Stove: still looking for a new/used stove for the kitchen. Approved up to 2600 pesos at June 25th meeting.
3. Furniture for lobby: still scouting. On hold for the moment.
4. Pantry: folding doors need to be hung. Wall repainted.
5. Sound Equipment: Milton would like to weld speaker mounts and build a table to hold the mixing board. We are using the new microphones.
6. Air Conditioner is averaging about 1000 pesos a month.

CHURCH WORK DAY: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2006

Next Church Meeting: December 10, 2006