

Adult Mission Trip 2015 in Rocky Point, Mexico



In November 2015, four adults from St. Mark's went down to Puerto Peñasco to help build a house with an agency called 1Mission. We did it, too. Our work team of about 20 people built a house in three days. Starting with pouring the concrete slab, all the way to a final coat of stucco and hanging the front door. The new homeowners only have to paint the exterior and finish the inside to their liking. But what a job it was. Since there were no power tools, everything from mixing the concrete to cutting plywood sheets had to be done by hand.



One of the really great things about the trip was getting to work alongside the new homeowners (pictured right) — the Benitez-Galindo family, Jorge (a mechanic who earns about \$75/week), Jazmin (stay-at-home mom), and Jorge Jr. (18-months old — he didn't help much, he just liked to play in the dirt). In addition, Grandma and one of their brothers were also helping most of the time. And they didn't just help out and do what they were told. Sometimes, they were the experts, teaching us how to properly mix and apply the stucco. One morning, our group was the first to arrive at the site, except that the family was already there, and they had prepared six wheelbarrows with the stucco mix to help us get started more quickly. To me, that really showed what great pride of ownership they had. They were helping build their home, as well as being appreciative of the gifts of labor and materials that we were providing.

Luckily, the four of us were not the only ones there. Another church was also volunteering that weekend. They brought down over 100 volunteers, including children and teens. Together, we finished five houses that weekend. When we weren't working, we spent our time at the 1 Mission compound. The compound is an old RV park, and they have added some bunkhouses, a huge dining tent and a large kitchen. It also had a pool, which we didn't try out. Jackie McKenzie ended up in one of the bunkhouses, and the three guys were going to be in a tent, but were offered an RV to sleep in once we arrived. Yea! And in case you were wondering, the food was great! Burritos, homemade tortillas, fresh salsa... it was all wonderful — a great way to start and end a hard day of work!

