

Front Line Ministries

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FLM

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SERVING THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES OF MINISTRY

From Bill

In early September, I had the privilege of traveling to Mexico to conduct a series of workshops with missionaries from Central American Mission International. The CAM missionaries I worked with have played a key role in starting 55 church plants across Mexico.

Mexico is a country of approximately 100 million people, mostly congregated in the bigger cities. Mexico has an abundance of Catholicism in its history, but few Mexicans understand a personal relationship with Jesus Christ; less than 5% would describe themselves as evangelical Christians.

When I arrived in Mexico City, I was greeted by one of the CAM missionaries. Less than 15 minutes into Mexico City traffic
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Enhancing Team Performance

Workshops conducted with CAM missionaries (September 6-8) focused on building stronger teams to work together for the Lord and building leadership skills among the missionaries which they can use in developing leaders in their 55 Mexican church plants. These missionaries were energetic and eager to learn. Some of the feedback from missionaries attending the training were as follows:

"Thank you so much for coming & realizing missionaries do need support and help in these areas. It is said that one of the #1 reasons missionaries go back home is because they can't get along with their team. How very sad the truth can be! You have helped us as a missionary family be so much more united—working with each other better, understanding each other more in God's eyes & just loving on each other more!"

"Thanks so much for coming—for the insightful seminars AND for being available to listen & share during the "down time". It was amazingly insightful & freeing to understand how I personally am wired. Rubbing shoulders with others who have similar "make ups" was encouraging."

"The Myers-Briggs Type Indicator test and the interaction groups helped me so much! I am encouraged to know that some areas of my life that I think of as weaknesses in my Christian life are not really weaknesses at all, but just the way God has wired me. And that there are others on the field here in Mexico who are wired just like me... Thanks for letting Bill come down and minister to us."

"Thank you for coming! I learned a lot about myself as well as my spouse & our team. I understand more about "why" we have had more conflicts here in our marriage as well as individually. Solutions are much more obvious. Thank you!"

*"63 years old and first time to see these things. I definitely will understand how others see things better."
"The seminar helped me to understand myself and the team of missionaries that I lead. I understand better how to relate to the*

needs of my team. I am looking forward to putting together these new insights in to practice not only amongst missionaries but also amongst the Mexican leaders." flm



One of CAM's missionary teams discussing the role of personality in building teams and leaders.



This group demonstrated their difficulty in making team decisions by deciding to bring up the whole group to give their presentation.

From Bill (Continued from page 1)

(population 25 million), we witnessed a violent fist fight between 2 Mexicans arguing over traffic right of way in the middle of the street. This, apparently, is not unusual.

Since Mexico is our closest neighbor to the south, one would think our belief in Jesus as Savior would have permeated the country of Mexico by now. My experience in traffic was a clear indication that there is much to be done to spread the gospel in Mexico.

Our workshops focused on enhancing team performance among the missionaries and building leadership among the nationals in the Mexican church. *flm*

From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
Ephesians 4:16

A Ministry Saved

Four years ago I met Cindy at CAM-Mexico's *Sharpening the Axe* conference. In a conversation with Cindy on this recent trip to Mexico, she stated that FLM had played a significant role in her still being on the mission field.

Cindy stated that she was then on a team experiencing extreme difficulty. She felt like a "non-person" and was considering leaving her ministry. She said our team building and conflict resolution trainings have helped CAM to more closely evaluate who works with whom on teams. Cindy said her ministry is again thriving. Her written comments follow:

A few years ago, the first time team building was presented, I was on a team that was experiencing great conflict. As a result of the seminars, eventually our team decided to disband. God used that incredibly within CAM-Mexico. Now there is a much greater awareness of forming teams and looking at differences & how best to work together (communication is much better). Before I was at the point of leaving the mission field. As a result of the training & improved communication, there is more understanding & sensitivity. I am no longer a "non-entity" as a single woman but have learned how to communicate my needs/ input. I am still here and very happy in a new team. God is blessing all of us who split from the original team.

When you support Front Line Ministries in your prayers and finances, you really are having an impact in keeping missionaries in the field, leading others around the world to Christ. Cindy's restored ministry is a direct example of the impact FLM is having among missionaries.

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A Vision for the Future!

Rick and Joan Burnam are team leaders of missionaries working with CAM in Mexico. They have been serving Christ in Mexico for 18 years. Their ministry focus has now shifted from church planting to developing leaders in Mexican churches.

It has been said by many that Middle Eastern Muslim countries will not be evangelized by Americans because of the deep hate by Muslims for Americans. Rick & Joan have a vision from God that other dark-skinned people, like Mexicans, will play a major role in reaching the Muslim world for Christ.

Rick & Joan believe God may lead them, some day, to take a group of Mexican missionaries into a Muslim land to establish a beachhead for Christ. They are planning a trip to Turkey next year along with other CAM missionaries to begin to plant the

seeds of this vision among Mexican church leaders. Now that's thinking BIG and thinking into the future! Please continue to pray for the Burnams and others in Mexico as they seek the Lord on His will for sending a new wave of Hispanic missionaries to the Muslim world to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world. *flm*



CAM-Mexico Retreat

"Circuit" Leaders: Rick & Joan Burnam and Craig & Denise Williams; and Member Care Coordinator: Toby Casteel with Bill at Retreat site.

Funding

If you would like to make a contribution to Front Line Ministries to offset the expenses of our travel to Mexico and Russia, please use the enclosed envelope and designate *Ministry Trips* on your donation.