



## *Across Two Borders and Back*

**W**hat do you get when 18 Canadians drive deep into Mexico to serve Jesus Christ?

Besides surprises, hugs and prayers, you get lots of new Christians. And renewed ones, too!

Three Alberta churches<sup>1</sup> recently sent some of their best to come alongside a

local Mexican church to minister to indigenous Mexican people.

InterAct's Dan and Bev Mayerle were part of a group of 18 who collaborated with Gospel Recordings and North American Indigenous Ministries to follow up on 11 years of ministry activity in Culiacan, Mexico.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes people involved in or acquainted with InterAct's First Nations' church plants in Calgary and Lethbridge, Alberta, as well as people from Eden

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Valley Reserve and North American Indigenous Ministries.

In this area of Mexico, home to many camps of migrant farm workers, indigenous Mexican people are coming to Christ and taking the gospel back to their own villages where missionaries are not allowed. They are starting Bible studies and churches. This year some 6,000 people came to Christ in a six-week ministry effort.



InterAct's Dan Mayerle [left] has led teams from Calgary's Native church for 12 years.

Most of those results are coming from local believers who work in the neighborhoods all year. So why should some Canadians come for a week?

The foreigners mainly served as a platform to build interest. First Nations Christians from Canada arouse lots of interest and make it possible for locals to share the gospel.

Not that the foreigners had nothing to say. ... Well, actually, "nothing" is exactly what they said for a mime they presented at a local prison. InterAct

missionary Bev Mayerle described their impact:

"Sitting to one side under a tree, several of the prisoners sat watching intently. As the pantomime came to an end, 'Jesus' chased 'Satan' off the stage in a demonstration of victory. The prisoners stood and cheered, some with tears dripping off their faces. Many accepted Jesus that day."

The team also shared their testimonies (through interpreters), and went with Mexican believers to invite local people to meetings.

What the Canadian visitors did during and after those services was maybe most significant: *they prayed while their Mexican brothers and sisters ministered.*



"In Christ there is no ... north or south."

"As the Mexican pastor gave his message," Bev remembered, "I looked over at Mackenzie wondering how our team could contribute. I was so thrilled

to see her standing near the front, eyes closed, with a desperate expression of urgency on her prayerful face. An hour later she watched from the background as people crowded around the Mexican pastor, responding to his invitation to accept Jesus as Saviour."

By the end of the trip, a new Mexican church was started near San Pedro. And the Canadians who went brought back their own spiritual harvest.

Leslie wants to go to Bible school and earn a degree in youth ministry so she can do youth ministry in her home church.

Levi had been accepted into the Art Institute of Vancouver, but now his heart is in Mexico missionary work, and he will probably go to Mexico next year for Bible school and then ministry.

Curtis, after returning to Calgary, shared in the Native church how the Lord had increased his faith through his Mexico experience.

Cheryl had gone with some personal challenges, including some anxiety. But the Lord used the expressive affection of the Mexican believers to show her His love. She wants to go back and serve Him there.

"Our continued prayer," said Bev, "is that these memories will become stepping stones of growth in the lives of those who travelled with us."



Dan and Bev Mayerle live in Calgary and minister in the Native church. Dan is also InterAct's Canada field director.