



After what seemed like an incredibly long delay, Chapter Three Ministries was able to return to Piedras Negras, Mexico, in October of 2009. Our trip was originally scheduled for June but was postponed due to a number of problems that arose in and around Piedras Negras that put our teams' safety in question. It was a tough decision to have to postpone the trip as we did not want to send a message to the people who live in such danger everyday that we were only willing to serve when it is safe. Nevertheless, after much prayer and thought, we decided that our mission efforts in Piedras Negras are long-term and could withstand a brief pause in the interest of everyone's safety.

The good news is that God protected the communities we serve and gave our ministry an opportunity to reschedule the trip in the fall. Moreover, when we arrived in Piedras, we were able to pick up right where we left off—both in our serving efforts and in our relationships. This year the C3 members were able to spend their time a number of different ways. Some of our team members served in construction efforts working on the trim carpentry and tiling for a new boys' dormitory at the Casa Miseracordia orphanage. We also were able to send C3 team members to the overcrowded waiting area outside the medical mission to talk and pray with those who were waiting for medical care. Of course, no C3 mission effort would be complete without music. The members of Chapter Three Ministries brought music and worship to every stop. Throughout the trip, we had the privilege of worshipping with and performing for the children at both orphanages as well as the communities of the Aleluya church school.

As with our 2008 trip, one of the most impactful worship times took place at the special needs orphanage, Casa Bethesda. The time we spend playing with the children, listening to them, singing with them and just showing them that someone cares is truly invaluable. It is one of those rare times where we are certain we are exactly where God wants us to be and doing exactly what he wants us to do.

Overall, the trip served as a resounding confirmation of our calling to serve this impoverished community. Our efforts there are drastically needed but are already starting to have a formative impact. The community is responding to the help that they are receiving from a number of different organizations including C3. Both our home churches and Chapter Three Ministries support the Casa Miseracordia and Casa Bethesda orphanages and the Aleluya Church School outside Piedras Negras throughout the year. However, our annual trip to Mexico is very important to us as we are committed to putting "hands and feet" in service on location and not just sending money.

Romans 10:15 reminds us, "...how can people call for help if they don't know who to trust? And how can they know who to trust if they haven't heard of the One who can be trusted? And how can they hear if nobody tells them? And how is anyone going to tell them, unless someone is sent to do it?" C3M firmly believes that it is through action and relationships that the opportunity for change arises. We realize that we can not have relationships with people that we don't see and get to know. We are very thankful for the opportunity our supporters give us to travel to Piedras Negras and continue serving and building relationships in the name of Christ. We will continue to go where we are sent.