

A mission, an organized effort to spread the Good News of Jesus, is not an option for the Christian, it is the calling of the Church and it's an extension of our ALL IN vision - to love God by sharing the gospel whenever there is an opportunity. When it comes to missions, the Sunset leadership has taken steps to facilitate our local church body in engaging and supporting one another in our community and the world whenever and wherever God issues a specific call to connect and move. Sunset Missions Connection hopes to become a quarterly newsletter serving to inform and inspire you to become a part of our Mission to spread to the gospel to lost souls. The newsletter will provide a focused update on one Mission each quarter that our church body currently supports along with providing specific needs for prayer and how you may support further.

Missions Ministry Team-

*John Kraphol, Bob Reeves, Terry Phelps,
Mike Canty, Melody Dowell, Brad McInnes*

Greetings from Iglesias de Cristo

Church of Christ at Mexicantown,
1937 Vinewood Ave Detroit, MI



Background: Javier Cuarezma and his wife, Isabel, natives of Nicaragua, have been working with the Hispanic ministry in Mexicantown since the fall of 2004. Prior

to coming to Detroit, they established Hispanic congregations in Texas and Canada. The church in Southwest Detroit meets at the Vinewood Church of Christ.

Currently, the church continues to actively serve the community by conducting regular worship services and Bible studies in Spanish, holding annual bilingual worship services, offering ESL (English as a Second Language) classes to the community and hosting community wide clothing drives several times a year; note, Sunset has joined in the clothing drives with other congregations in meeting the needs of adults and children as they prepare to go back to school and gear up for winter. For the past two years under the

leadership of elder John Kraphol, Sunset launched the soap box car derby with the children in Mexicantown as an exciting and fun way to engage youth culturally.

For nearly 10yrs, Javier and Isabel have lead a team from SE MI churches on a week long mission trip to Central America hosted by the Walled Lake Church of Christ. This week long effort serves to support the growth and development of churches planted in areas where the light of Jesus is shining bright even amid a culture driven by Catholicism. Last November, the church hosted a lectureship with fellow Spanish brothers and sisters that meet at the Auburn Hills Church of Christ. Plans for more collaborative engagement in spreading the Gospel among both Spanish communities are in the works for 2020.

Vision for 2020: Transition: With their retirement on the horizon, Javier and Isabel are diligently seeking God's guidance in bringing a family that desires to continue the work in Mexicantown. There are potential candidates under review for invitation to speak during the first quarter of 2020. The citizenship status of the potential candidate and completion of the Immigration requirements

for obtaining a Religious Work permit will determine the transition timing. Javier is excited about the opportunity to develop the next generation of servants for the Spanish community in Mexicantown.

While this is a year of transition, Javier's next chapter is to extend his leadership experience and skills in leading other Spanish brethren in the Great Lakes area (MI, IL, OH, NY, and Canada) and Central America where Spanish Churches have been established and need guidance. His goal parallels Paul's missionary journeys in which he visited many of the established churches to follow-up and provide guidance to ensure believers were continuing in the faith and holding true to God's will.

As a founding member of the Great Lakes Spanish Lectureship, Javier has a desire to extend his leadership toward this endeavor which began 20 years ago. The Lectureship has grown to include representatives of over 20 Spanish churches of the Great Lakes Area. It will be held this year in Dayton, OH and he's plans to join the leaders and encourage them in spreading the Gospel through workshops and evangelistic outreach.

While the 2020 vision of transition is the desire of the Mexicantown church, Javier and Isabel acknowledge that it's all in God's timing as they continue to work according to His will which is made possible by the support of local congregations. They are humble servants who extend their thanks for the guidance and financial support as they continue their labor in expanding the kingdom in the Spanish community.

The Sunset congregation has had a collaborative relationship with Mexicantown since they began 2004 and it is our goal to continue to support as they transition.

Prayer Requests: Please keep the following requests of the Mexicantown Church of Christ family in prayer.

- 1) *God's guidance as they search for a minister that desires to work in spreading the gospel in the Spanish community of SW Detroit.*
- 2) *Mexicantown Church to maintain their spirit of unity throughout the search process and the transition.*
- 3) *God to open the hearts of fellow Churches and Christians to continue and increase their financial support toward their work of the kingdom of SW Detroit.*

2020 Mexicantown Events: Please check the bulletin as dates are finalized and make plans to support.

- Soap Box Race Car Derby (March/April)
- Annual Central America Mission Trip (July)
- Love-In-Action Giveaway- (August)
- Annual Bi-Lingual Services -To be announced

You can donate a contribution to the Mexicantown church via Sunset Church of Christ with the designation for: Mexicantown and it will be distributed accordingly. Javier can be reached at the following:

Mr. Javier Cuarezma
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