

Mexiquense Mexican Mission

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Javier Muñoz Delgado, D.Min. (Montemorelos University, Nuevo Leon, Mexico), is president of Mexiquense Mexican Mission and has also served as pastor and department director at Valley Mexican Mission, Metropolitan Mexican Conference, Aztec Mexican Conference, and Central Mexican Union Mission. He is married to Nohemí Barrera García and has two adult sons.

Mexiquense Mexican Mission is a part of Central Mexican Union Mission in the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

Territory and Statistics

Mexiquense Mexican Mission is located in the northern part of the state of Mexico and borders the state of Hidalgo. As of 2020 it had 15 churches and 6,746 members in a population of 5,991,890. Its administrative office is located at Av. Del Parque No 279, Colonia Parque Residencial Coacalco, Coacalco de Berriozábal, Mexico, Mexico.¹ The population of the area includes local natives and a large number of people from the southern states of Mexico, which provides a challenging but enriching cultural diversity.

Origin of Adventist Work in Mission Territory

Mexiquense Mexican Mission was officially organized in 2016, but missionary work in the area began several decades earlier. The establishment of an Adventist church in the northern part of Mexico state started around 1973. At that time approximately eight families comprised all the members in what is now the Mexiquense Mexican Mission territory. These were the families of Morón Rodríguez, Miguel Vázquez, Nicolás Mojica, Alicia Aguirre, Manuelita Martínez, Aníbal Velázquez, and the Sauza and Sosnaba families.²

The beginning of church work in the Mexiquense mission territory was marked by personal missionary work and evangelizing efforts of colporteurs who visited house-to-house and communicated Adventist beliefs to the inhabitants of the different communities.³ In San Pablo de las Salinas (Tultitlán), a group of Sabbath-keepers formed and the message then spread to surrounding communities.

The church in Unidad Morelos was the first organized church in the mission territory, and the majority of current districts emerged from this church. The first believers began to gather in the house of Rosita Fabián de Mojica in 1973. They also received support from members in Monumento.⁴

Among the colporteurs, Graciela Clemente was outstanding. The publications she delivered house-to-house and the hundreds of Bible studies she gave brought knowledge of biblical truths to many in the area.⁵ Alfredo

Macías, a prominent lay missionary, and the medical missionary, Dr. Aníbal Velázquez, aroused the interest of many others.⁶

Adventist groups emerged in the municipalities of Ecatepec and Coacalco, and they quickly organized to share their beliefs with their neighbors. The churches of Ecatepec, Pajaritos, and Tecámac were among those established in a ten-year period after the beginning of the church in Unidad Morelos. The church in Pajaritos, in the municipality of Coacalco, was established with support from Roque Sosa Cortés, Neftalí Eslava, Joel Martínez Barrera, and Josefina Martínez de Luna.⁷ On March 19, 1988, the Maranatha Volunteers mission group arrived to build a church for this congregation.⁸

The church in Tecámac began through missionary efforts of church members who lived near the municipality and through help from members in several other churches and districts.⁹ This church then sent mission teams to Zumpango, and a congregation began there.

In Cuautitlán de Romero Rubio, members of the church in Tepalcapa began to give Bible studies in several neighborhoods of this municipality.¹⁰ One of the most prominent was Fidelina Vázquez, who spent nearly all her time preaching the gospel.¹¹ This church carried the gospel message to other areas far north of the state of Mexico, establishing churches in Huehuetoca, Xalpa, San Miguel Jagueyes, and nearby towns.

Thus began the presence of Adventists in the border area of Hidalgo and the state of Mexico. By 1983 Unidad Morelos had grown into a district with six churches.¹²

Organizational History of Mexiquense Mexican Mission

Central Mexican Union Mission was aware that more urgent efforts were needed to strengthen the Adventist presence in the northern part of the state of Mexico. On November 14, 2013, at its yearend plenary meeting, the Central Mexican Union Mission Board of Directors voted "To approve the request of the Azteca Mexican Conference to begin the proceedings with the Inter-American Division, for the creation of a New Region..."¹³ This led to the formation of the Mexiquense Mexican Region.¹⁴ This region would depend on the Azteca Mexican Conference, but have its own general coordinator. The districts that formed the emerging region were Ecatepec, Tecámac, Zumpango, Unidad Morelos, Pajaritos, Cuautitlán, and Santa Clara. On April 11, 2014, Pastor Eleazar Cipriano was appointed as its coordinator.

In the beginning there was no building for administrative offices. It was not until May 5, 2015, that the current office was inaugurated in the municipality of Coacalco de Berriozábal. On January 11, 2016, Pastor Javier Muñoz Delgado was appointed president of the newly-formed Mexiquense Mexican Mission, with Aaron Santiago Pérez as secretary-treasurer.¹⁵ On May 12, 2016, the official inaugural session of Mexiquense Mexican Mission was held; at that time, its committee members were appointed and plans for church growth in the territory were officially presented.¹⁶

Mexiquense Mexican Mission Tries to Fulfill its Mission Through:

Committing each leader and member of the church to surrender themselves to God, following the teachings of Zechariah 4:6.

Training all church members and leaders under the motto, "Every member involved," to better serve and involve the churches in the fulfillment of the mission.

Sending missionaries to establish new congregations in places with little or no Adventist presence.

Conducting medical brigades and community services in each district to motivate people to study the Bible.

Seeking donations to purchase land for congregations to have their own places of worship.

Challenges and What Remains to be Done

Although the Mexiquense Mexican Mission territory is not extensive, the fulfillment of the mission in this area presents great challenges, the most complex of which is the development of strategies focused on reaching an increasingly individualistic, postmodern, and distrustful population. Due to insecurity that exists in the municipalities, the communities' inhabitants have become distrustful of receiving books and brochures, attending evangelistic meetings, and allowing strangers to enter their homes. For this reason, the church is implementing the following mission strategies:

Create centers of influence (space aimed at improving the integral health of the inhabitants) and build solid friendships that allow our members to present the gospel naturally.

Start a medical clinic to be led by health professionals who belong to the mission's churches.

Restore Adventist educational work in the territory of the mission. This is one of the biggest challenges. Thousands of people send their children to private schools, and it is these children that we want to reach through Adventist education.

Solicit donations for the purchase of land and construction of churches. More than half of the congregations do not have their own place for weekly worship. They gather in spaces provided by church members themselves, which makes both the image (corporate identity) and church growth difficult, since many people do not feel safe going to homes that are usually not identified as churches.

Continue with the implementation of the “Every Member Involved” program so that each church member can participate in the various missionary projects and the fulfillment of the mission.

List of Presidents

Eleazar Cipriano Martínez, coordinator (2014-2016); Javier Muñoz Delgado (2016-present).

SOURCES

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NOTES

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8. Jorge Sosa, interview by author, Ecatepec, Mexico, February 10, 2019.
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