



LAIM

"A Better Tomorrow!"

*Our commitment to the
Indians of Latin America*

Founders

Dr. Manuel Arenas

Dr. Dale Kietzman

Board of Directors

Aris Melgarejo

Craig Bryson

Dan Wooding

David Kietzman

David Tamez

Dennis Olson

Dr. Dale Kietzman

Peter Petry

Ruth Kietzman

LAIM Home Office

669 S. Oak Knoll Ave
Pasadena, CA 91106
626-795-0902

LAIM Texas Office

6685 Kentwick Drive
Houston, TX 77084
281-856-9788

LAIM Admin Office

P. O. Box 2050
Orange, CA 92859

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www.laim.org

Adopt-A-Church Ministry

LAIM is a missions organization committed to the evangelism work begun by Manuel Arenas and continuing with Felipe Ramos among the Totonac Indian people of Puebla and Veracruz, Mexico. The evangelism work currently taking place is fueled by a radio program (in the native Totonac language) and door-to-door contact. It is so powerful that churches are springing up spontaneously. Numerous requests each month come from believers and non-believers in remote villages for evangelism materials and training. They often ask for Felipe to come and preach the Word of God to their group and to help show them how to form a church. Most groups begin as several families meeting in their houses listening to the Totonac Radio Hour and equipped with a Totonac New Testament or Gospel messages. Many remain small intimate congregations of believers that do not go out from worshipping Christ in their humble environment to the glory of God). Yet other congregations take root and grow into a congregation like Mecatlan that boasts of over 1,000 members in attendance on various Sunday services.

LAIM is promoting an Adopt-A-Church ministry whereby US churches, small groups, or individuals can support these newly formed Totonac congregations in their early years. We suggest a three- to five-year relationship, based on a commitment on the part of the US group. A suggested \$300 a month will help support a Totonac pastor and provide needed evangelism materials. Most pastors will still need to work at least half-time in their trade. The pastor's responsibility during this time will be to help the new congregation mature and to become involved in evangelism. They will be encouraged from the beginning to teach the biblical principal of tithing among their congregations. The goal is a growing, self- supporting church that no longer needs financial support from the US group.

We suggest that the US pastoral support can decrease year after year, coming to an end as the congregation is able to support the pastor. Thus the new congregation experiences the necessary growing pains as well as the supernatural provision of God. The sponsoring group may continue to provide evangelism materials as needed for some time. It may also choose to help with special projects such as a building project. The Totonac church would be heavily involved in donating the labor for these projects since many of the men will be experienced in the building trades. Help with the project may also come from the larger congregations in Nanacatlan, Las Lomas and Coyutla. If Felipe announces the building project on the Totonac radio program, many workers would show up to assist with the construction.

As was the case originally when Manuel was building a network of 50 congregations in the lowlands near Patla, the people are so poor that raising support for a pastor and church activities proved to be very difficult at best. However, holding the congregations responsible for pastoral support and for raising half of the funds for church building



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materials causes these humble folks to accomplish extraordinary things. That is why many of the Totonac churches planted in Manuel's time are still thriving today. In fact, with the training Felipe is now providing, the churches are multiplying in number due to the application of biblical principles of evangelism.

It is LAIM's commitment to facilitate the planting of mature, self-sustaining churches that will reach out to future generations. The greater blessing awaits US sponsoring groups that will find the joy of participating with their Totonac brothers in the Great Commission.

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