



RPC'S MISSION TRIP 2019

By: Rev. Douglas J. Kortyna

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EL BUEN PASTOR AND CHURCH PLANTING

- El Buen Pastor is working towards planting five churches within five years. This is named "5 en 5".
- They are currently finishing up building a church within the Apodaca neighborhood.



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MAP OF CHURCH PLANTS

- Buen Pastor (mother church) hits a threshold of members (200-300) and then commissions a group to plant a church.
- They have planted churches in the neighborhoods of Apodaca and Juarez.
- Monterrey is roughly the size of Dallas, TX.

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CHURCH PLANTING IN NORTHERN MEXICO

- Originally, Mexico was divided between two denominations for missions.
- The Methodists planting churches north of Mexico City. And the Presbyterians planted churches south of Mexico City.
- Now, that is null and void the Presbyterian church is pushing to plant more churches in northern Mexico.



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THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

- Jim Moelk taught on 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, and Titus. He spoke about “guarding your conscience.”
- Pastor Douglas spoke on “Trinitarian Worship” and “Reformed Sacraments”, and “Missional Friendship.”
- Sara Kortyna also spoke to the women’s group about prayer.

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LUNCH WITH JULIO

- We had a lovely lunch with Julio Alfredo Puente at Los Frijoles.
- Julio is a recent convert to the Reformation tradition and could not stop talking about all the books he has read.
- He buys Reformed books in English and uses Google to translate them into Spanish!



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LUNCH WITH JULIO

- Lunch with Julio demonstrated the need to have quality theology books from our tradition translated into Spanish!
- Perhaps a job for Sara in the future? 😊
- It taught me the importance and value of converts to a specific tradition. The I.N.P.M was not embarrassed to have transfer growth.

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LUNCH WITH RICARDO

- The team had lunch with a ruler elder named Ricardo.
- We spoke extensively about the needs of the Presbytery of Monterrey in the future.
- They asked if RPC and other EPC churches would think about practical theology seminars when their seminarians are home in May and June.

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PEDRO'S CHURCH

- Pedro's church serves the Rincon neighborhood.
- The church primary ministers to migrant workers from San Luis, Potosi.
- They have shifted back and forth between an established church and "re-plant".



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ABNER'S CHURCH



- We visited a church plant which is pastored by Abner Vazquez. His church is in the Juarez neighborhood.
- His church uses the traditional forms of Reformed worship. However, they sing contemporary music and hymns.
- This church plant is the next one that will have a building built. They have been moving around town renting many different spaces.

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LUIS MIGUEL'S CHURCH

- We visited Luis Miguel's church in the Apodaca neighborhood.
- We were able to visit their church building which will be completed by January of 2020.
- He wanted to host the next theological education conference in their new church!



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PARTNERING WITH BUEN PASTOR IN THE FUTURE

- Pastor David would like to continue hosting teaching elders from the EPC to host conferences to train pastors, ruling elders, and laity.
- However, they would prefer more practical topics. This could be talked through in it's entirety in the future.
- EPC churches could also give monetary gifts towards church planting in Monterrey. For example, children spaces need updated for safer conditions.



Pedro Martinez Moore's Church

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PARTNERING WITH BUEN PASTOR IN THE FUTURE



- RPC could send a team in the future for traditional mission work.
- RPC could help with vacation bible school for example.
- RPC could help paint or work on existing buildings that the church plants utilize.

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WHAT MISSION TEAM LEARNED

- Buen Pastor and the Mexican Presbyterian Church are holding onto their covenant children. This does not seem to be the case in the EPC across the board.
- They are unashamed about their confessional heritage. They utilize their catechism and the congregations know why they are Presbyterians.
- They have an overabundance of younger ministers. This is different within the EPC!



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CONCLUSIONS

- RPC will try and offer a mission trip to Monterrey every other year. Next trip would be May/June of 2021.
- Perhaps in the “off year”, RPC could host a team from Buen Pastor? This would build towards the reciprocity in relationships like we discussed last month!
- When we go on mission trips, it bears witness that all the nations sit at the Lord’s Table!