

TVBC 5 Year Strategy in Las Acacias, Gracias, Honduras

TVBC Mission Statement-

Taylor's Valley Baptist Church exists to glorify God by:

Exalting Jesus Christ
Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Christ, and
Expressing to the world, the love of Christ

Each year Taylor's Valley takes up an offering that we have affectionately named "Acts 1:8 Offering." This verse states;

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

This verse does not single out one place to focus on sharing the powerful name of Jesus. Instead it labels each specific place where believers are commanded to go and then adds in "to the ends of the earth." To apply this verse to our time today, Jerusalem would be the equivalent of wherever it is that you live, your local town and community. Judea would be considered your state/nation and Samaria, then, is the place no one wants to go...outside of their nation. That last part of the verse encompasses all three of the preceding places, putting them under the same umbrella. It was a reminder to the disciples, and to us, of a previous statement Jesus had made in response to Peter, James, John and Andrew about the end of times in Mark 13:10 which states, "and the gospel must first be preached to all nations."

Taylor's Valley Baptist church is called to all areas of the world to share the gospel of Christ. Strategies for local, state and national missions for TVBC should and will be made in the future. This 5 year strategy will focus on our relationship with a community in Honduras known as Las Acacias. It will be evident that the full TVBC Mission Statement will be accomplished within this strategy of building a relationship with a sister church. TVBC is not limited to a 5 year commitment, but we believe in order to make an impact in the community of Las Acacias we must make a commitment of a minimum of 5 years.

The purpose of the 2013 and 2014 Honduras teams who traveled from TVBC, was to find a church in Las Acacias to partner with. Now that a sister church has been identified, the 5 year strategy will begin. Shannon and Kristi Hopkins, with 61 Isaiah Ministries, are the missionaries in the field that we work with and support. Shannon, along with Kevin Goodwin, will walk with TVBC as we begin our journey building a relationship with Las Acacias. Their purpose in Honduras is to help raise up leaders in the church, train them to share the gospel and send them out into surrounding communities, then to train the leaders how to train those whom they bring in, how to share the gospel, and so on. It becomes an amazing domino affect that TVBC will have an opportunity to help start.

The following is the projected plan for how TVBC will work with Las Acacias over the next 5 years. Notice how each year there are a few things the teams will always do and as the years pass, more activities are added to help further the spiritual growth of church members.

Year 1 – *(The 2014 team began this work and the 2015 team will focus their efforts similarly)*

- TVBC team members will visit local homes in the community and get to know the people.
- In the afternoons, team members will facilitate a VBS and begin teaching church leaders how to do a VBS.
- Team members will participate in evening worship services.
- Team members will spend time with the pastor, personally seeking his perspective of the community and the vision he regards as God's plan for the local church.

Year 2 –

- TVBC team members will visit local homes to reinforce relationships built the previous year.
- Team members will facilitate a VBS training for the church leaders in the morning.
- The church leaders will facilitate a VBS for their church with TVBC team members there as support.
- Possible leadership conference (during the VBS) with the pastor and local leaders to discover the vision and purpose God has for the local church as well as training in how to share the Gospel.
- Team members will participate in evening worship services.

Year 3 –

- TVBC team members will visit local homes to reinforce relationships built the previous year.
- Team members will facilitate a VBS training for the church leaders in the morning.
- The church leaders will facilitate a VBS for their church with TVBC team members there as support.
- Possible leadership conference (during the VBS) with the pastor and local leaders to discover the vision and purpose God has for the local church as well as training in how to share the Gospel.
- Team members will participate in evening worship services.

Year 4 –

- TVBC team members will visit local homes to reinforce relationships built the previous year.
- The goal for this trip is medical missions (if possible) in order to help the church learn how to meet physical needs of their own community.
- Team members will facilitate a VBS and a leadership conference (during the VBS) with the pastor and local leaders to *reinforce* or teach topics such as, but not limited to, pastoral care, discipleship, and worship.

- Team members will participate in evening worship services
- Team members will explore and discuss with the pastor and church leaders the possibility of a church or community project.

Year 5 –

- TVBC team members will visit local homes to reinforce relationships built the previous year.
- Team members will facilitate a VBS and a leadership conference (during the VBS) with the pastor and local leaders to *reinforce* or teach topics such as, but not limited to, pastoral care, discipleship, and worship
- Team members will participate in evening worship services.
- Team members will assist the church in hosting a community or church project.

Like any strategy, each year we would need to re-evaluate the effectiveness of our mission and seek the perspective of the local pastor, leadership, and church. As believers in Christ, it is our obligation, as a church body, to share the gospel “to the ends of the earth.” It is the vision of 61 Isaiah Ministries to train the Lenca people in the gospel and send them out “to the ends of the earth” to do the same. TVBC has an opportunity to be a lasting part of this vision and to fulfill its mission statement while being an active part of God’s promise.

Questions and Answers

What will be done during the year when TVBC is not sending a team?

- Continually communicating with Pastor Juan and the church in Las Acacias (and Shannon Hopkins):
 - A monthly letter or phone call to Juan and the church simply building that relationship; using that opportunity to discuss what prayer needs they have and for us to share our prayer needs with them
- Devoting one Sunday a month to update the TVBC congregation on how Las Acacias is doing and take time in the morning worship service to pray specifically for their needs
- Posting prayer requests and updates from Las Acacias on all of our media sites and boards

What will our financial commitment be?

- There is **no** financial commitment. In the past two years, we have been blessed with enough funds in the Missions budget to significantly support the members of the Honduras teams. This will not always be the case. Therefore, any member of TVBC who wishes to go to Honduras must be prepared to raise the full funds on their own. If TVBC can help in any way a decision can be made to do so, but is not required to help.
- TVBC will not make a commitment to financially support the church in Las Acacias. If a situation arises where there is a financial need for the church, Pastor Juan, or a member of the church, TVBC may decide to choose to give the funds where and when necessary.

Who can go on the trips?

- TVBC has a Missions application for any trip lead by TVBC as well as an application for TVBC support. For both occasions, it is a requirement that any one applying be an active member of TVBC. In regards to support for TVBC lead trips, it is required that team members raise their own support. There will be at least one fundraiser during the year to help members raise support. As stated above, if TVBC has available funds and chooses to use said funds to support team members, it may do so.

Why only 5 years?

- The following is an excerpt taken from a letter that Shannon Hopkins has written to TVBC on our 5 year strategy:

As we begin to look forward to the upcoming years, I would like to share some perspectives on how this partnership can continue to minister to a local church in Honduras. The first perspective is in regards to time. We have asked all our partnerships to commit to a period of at least five years. Of course this time is not limited to five years. However, we do believe that in order to have a long-term and long-lasting impact a minimum of five years is necessary. It has been our experience that it takes about two years for the mission church to begin breaking down the “mission team” expectations of the local church. Due to their past experiences the Lenca people have come to believe that a mission team is only going to come one time and that during that one time they need to get as much as possible out of that team because there may not be another team come in the future. They have been told they are poor and that they need the help of the churches in the United States. In our experience by the third year, the local church realizes the mission team is coming to give more than material support and they begin opening up more about their spiritual needs and desires. By the fourth and fifth year the mission team can began working on the spiritual needs of the church because by this time the local church leaders have realized that the team really does want to help spiritually and has been there long enough to establish a close relationship. A commitment beyond five years is believed to produce even more of a spiritual harvest.