

## Mexicali Mission Work Projects

Here's some background on the building projects available to us at two Mexicali Presbyterian Churches. We will be refining the details and focus as our Border Ministries contact Bill Soldwisch has more interaction with the church pastors.

**San Marcos Pres.** (where your group will be staying).

- A low pitched gable roof 54.5 x 54.5 feet (as I recall it's a 3-12 slope or so); not too high - I believe it's over an 8' ceiling inside. The roofing paper is very worn on the western side (which covers the social hall which you folks will be eating in), and there may be some sheathing to repair/replace. My guess is that the fascia boards are in horrendous shape.

**Cristo Viene Pres.** (about 3 miles away, paved until the last block or two).

- Sanctuary roof: 24' x 50', it's steeper than San Marcos', 4-12 or maybe 5-12. The men of the congregation have already patched some bad areas by putting rigid sheet metal sheets on it vertically (the sheets have a couple v's in them for rigidity). They want to go ahead to finish the entire roof with this. The roof originally has rolled roofing paper.
- Back Sunday School Room - 16'x20' building, 20x24 roof? First structure ever built at the church complex, can't remember the slope but not too much. The felt and roofing paper need replacement. I haven't had a chance to inspect it, have no idea if it might need sheathing replaced.
- Manse-trailer roof: It's a 10 or 12' x 50 or 60' old house trailer, very slightly sloped roof. They've patched some places with roofing cement or the like, maybe some roofing paper. But it needs a fibrous emulsive cement with a fiber mesh (fiberglass?) and a sealer paint reflector on top. Hopefully you know what a metal trailer roof would need and can figure out my uninformed translation of the materials the roofing company suggested to the pastor.
- Manse-trailer flooring: Tear up old carpeting and install vinyl tile. (I'll call the pastor tomorrow, hopefully getting through, to ask him to tear up a section to check out the condition of the flooring underneath the carpeting).

### More info from Bill -

I have been working with the pastors of the two churches your folks will be working with, San Marcos (where you'll stay) and Cristo Viene. We have building supplies estimates of about \$900 for redoing the roof at San Marcos. At Cristo Viene it's a similar budget: \$600 to do the sanctuary roof with sheet metal laminate (which they say is less expensive than rolled roofing with the deal they have - I'll be checking that out this next week) and their back Sunday School room little building (with rolled roofing paper), and \$410 for the materials to do the manse trailer. Pastor Beimar of Cristo Viene request in his e-mail about the manse roof that you consider redoing some of the manse flooring, which is wall to wall carpeting, a horrendous dirt and dust catcher and health hazard for a family with a toddler like them. He suggested you could do only the worst part of the manse roof to have the resources to do some of the manse flooring (ripping up the carpeting and putting vinyl tile down).

## More Background - 3/21/06

I just talked to Bill Soldwisch, our Border Missions contact. He noted that though gloves will do a great job in keeping roofing cement/mastic off your skin, one nearly always needs to clean up skin and tools after the day's work is done. He will provide mechanic's soap/gunk, which is quite kind to the hands, but we will need to bring rags to use it. We will not find spare rags at the churches like you might find around your home.

Also, after much on the job experience with DuPage Habitat for Humanity work crews I have learned that the best way to return home with the same tools that you brought with you is to label them with your last name using a marker or label maker as appropriate.

The manse tiling work has changed. They found 5 boxes of tiles at the church and used these to do the manse living room. They have purchased two more boxes for us to do the kitchen, probably using that black mastic to make the tiles stick.

Bill noted that on Sunday we will be at the Mana Mission with members from our host churches. Monday and Tuesday we will work on the church properties in the morning and early afternoon and do people contact work, including VBS (50-60 kids), in the later part of the afternoon. Bill will be talking to Charles Ovando about VBS plans.

Bill has located three ladders for us to use. He noted that the Mexican and US methods for doing roll roofing differ, but that both ways will work and we will use the method that best suits the people doing the work. Any training needed will be done on site.

Generally speaking the tar paper underlayment is put on with staples starting with a full width strip at the bottom of the roof and working up with 3" to 4" overlaps of the horizontal strips. Roofing tar may be used sparingly in the overlap area - sparingly to avoid any oozing out and getting tracked around.

The roll roofing is applied in much the same way. but starting with a 1/2" overhang over the edges of the roof. Mexicans nail the bottom of each strip and tar over the nails. This is probably better for wind resistance than the US way of nailing the top of each strip and taring the next strip onto the nails. The US method is better for rain, but they get under 3" of rain each year!

## VBS Preparation - More Planning Details

Dear Ed, Sue, Charles and the rest of the VBS team,

Things are a little complicated – I just learned earlier this week that the VBS will not work well at the San Marcos Church where you all will be staying and where we were planning to do the VBS. So we have made arrangements to do the VBS Monday and Tuesday afternoon at the Maná Mission, 15 minutes north of the San Marcos Church, where they ordinarily expect 60 to 70 children. The VBS team will be going over there around 3 pm on Monday and Tuesday to set things up and maybe help with a last minute invitation to the children of the immediate neighborhood.

Re Sue's question, ordinarily the entire team working with a particular congregation does both the construction as well as VBS work. However especially at the beginning the principle VBS leaders often need time to adjust their plans and preparations now that they are on the ground where the event will happen and do that during some of the time when others are working on the building projects.

As things stand now, when you all arrive Saturday the 25th between 3-4 pm, you'll get to know the San Marcos Church where you're staying, decide who stays in what rooms, unpack the vehicles. I understand you will have two principle teams, the San Marcos team that works with the church where you're staying (including the VBS) and the Cristo Viene team, which will work with the church about three miles south of San Marcos. The idea was that the San Marcos team would work on the roof at San Marcos, do the VBS at San Marcos and worship and have fellowship with the people of the San Marcos Church. The Cristo Viene team would work on the roofs at the Cristo Viene church, do the Monday-Tuesday family meetings with movies in the late afternoon with the congregation at Cristo Viene and worship and have fellowship with the people.

The original plan was for the Cristo Viene folk to go Saturday afternoon to the Maná mission (which Cristo Viene supports and supervises) to help invite people of the neighborhood to the evangelistic meeting the Cristo Viene folk will be doing there Sunday late afternoon along with your Cristo Viene team. With the VBS happening there Monday and Tuesday the invitation will include the VBS also.

I will be talking to the pastors again today to see how they're doing with their preparations.

Grace and peace,

Bill