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CWRD UPDATE

SPRING 2023

Ministering to the Abused and Exploited in Mexico

When Felipe Rodriguez was invited to join a pilot group in Baja California, Mexico, that sought to offer a space of healing from past trauma and abuse, he joined hesitantly. But when he experienced a safe community to share painful parts of his story he had not shared before, Felipe, who is a pastor, became convinced God was calling him to offer the same experience to other pastors and leaders, and he eventually became his group's coordinator.

The group Felipe joined was part of MAEM (Ministering to the Abused and Exploited in Mexico), one of CWRD's unique peace and reconciliation partners. This work began in 2013 when people connected to the Covenant Church in Mexico City came together around their own needs for healing from abuse trauma and the desire further violence against others. Their



experience of healing in a communal setting led them to continue to seek additional resources. Eventually they were moved to create additional safe, communal spaces of healing and prevention training.

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Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”**

ROMANS 12:12-13

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own process of reflection and restoration. This is part of extensive, personal training in and integrated understanding of the dynamics of violence and abuse as well as how to accompany others who are suffering. In total, a facilitator participates in more than 100 hours of training and pastoral care!

Today MAEM has grown from one small group in Mexico City to seven regional teams located throughout the country. Each region is led by a coordinator, with a total of 50 trained, committed volunteer facilitators who serve as advocates for justice and peace and agents of transformation in their families and communities. They are breaking the cycle of violence that has oppressed them from generation to generation.

Recently, the MAEM coordinators gathered for a retreat for pastoral care, continued education, and time to celebrate God's work through the ministry. As the regional coordinator for MAEM Baja California, Felipe has walked with dozens of pastors and leaders in their healing journey. He has helped train the 15 facilitators who serve the region today. He has also prepared this group to continue with a new coordinator, as he and his wife are relocating to a new city where they plan to launch a new region of MAEM.

Join us in celebrating the ways God is working through Felipe and the whole MAEM team to bring about transformational healing and reconciliation.

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Partnerships Workshop at Midwinter

The 2023 Midwinter Conference provided an opportunity to highlight the blessings and impact of global partnerships. Rev. Jyoti Deep, program officer for Covenant Social Service of the Hindustani Covenant Church in India, attended the conference as our special guest. Grace Shim interviewed him on the main stage just prior to a message from Bryan Stevenson. Pastor Jyoti

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