



The Heart of am

Transformed Lives

Mexico is located in the southern portion of North America and is the largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. When Spanish conquistador, Hernandez Cortez, conquered the great Aztec Empire in 1521, Mexico became a colony of Spain and was influenced by medieval Roman Catholicism for the next 300 years. Mexico won her independence from Spain in 1821, but the remainder of the century was marked by violent military and political conflict. U.S. Army chaplains, returning from the Mexican-American War in 1848, reported that very few Mexicans knew Jesus Christ as Savior. Upon hearing this report, the Presbyterian Church (PCUS) sent missionaries from San Antonio, Texas into Mexico, and by 1872 the National Presbyterian Church of Mexico (NPCM) was established. One hundred years later, PCUS and NPCM created an International Joint Missions Commission to unify Presbyterian missions. By the 1970s, a growing crisis of pain, sorrow, illness, and the exploitation of women and children existed along the Mexican/U.S. border. The Presbyterian Border Ministry was birthed in 1984 to respond to this crisis. With a focus on Christian education, both Mexican and American Christians collaborated to plant Presbyterian seminaries and Christian schools along the border. This ministry continues today and oversees the work of six bi-national ministry sites, one of which is Proyecto Amistad or "Project Friendship" in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. Their mission is to build relationships between Mexican and American churches to advance the Gospel and equip the saints.



In April 2009, Dr. Elizabeth Youmans was invited by Tommy and Christi Moorman to present an AMO® Vision Seminar in San Antonio for local and Mexican pastors and church educational leaders.

Rick Lane, long-time supporter of AMO® and member of San Antonio's First Presbyterian Church, invited leaders from Proyecto Amistad. An AMO® Worldview and Teacher Training evolved from this seminar and was held at the First Presbyterian Church June 8-12, 2009. Christian leaders from both countries attended the five-day training.

Among the participants was Chris McReynolds, U.S. Coordinator for Proyecto Amistad. Upon returning to Laredo, Chris held a mini-training for Victoria en Jesucristo Presbyterian Mission teachers in Nuevo Laredo. Under the directorship of Anita Toress Ortiz, a two-day per week AMO® Program was established June 27, 2009 with a group of fifteen children. Realizing the need for a formal AMO® Training, Proyecto Amistad directors, Chris McReynolds (U.S.A.) and Roberto Medina (Mexico), requested an AMO® training for April, 2010.



Cristina Inchaustegui, AMO® Dominican Republic Director, was invited to translate and teach with me. We flew into San Antonio and were hosted by the Lane family. The following day we were joined by Vija McDill and Pam Martinez from San Antonio and continued our journey by car into Mexico. Nuevo Laredo lies on the banks of the Rio Grande across the border from the city of Laredo, Texas, a

principal gateway into Mexico from the United States. The two cities have been companion cities and connected in diverse and enterprising ways since 1881.

The AMO® Training was attended by 32 participants from Nuevo Laredo, Saltillo, Monclova, Coahuila, and Monterey, Mexico as well as from San Antonio, Texas. Many lives were affected and several key AMO® Programs are being established in both countries. AMO® is more than a curriculum. It is a story-based ministry shaped by faith to serve Christ, His Story. Faith continues writing the story that U.S. Army chaplains began 150 years ago. God's redemptive story in Mexico is the history of untold Christians called by God to preach and teach the Gospel of salvation and liberty in Christ. It is being written on the tender hearts and minds of children and their parents, who will affect their communities and ultimately their nation for Christ. As the story continues, remember dear reader, you also have a place on the pages of His Story in Mexico.

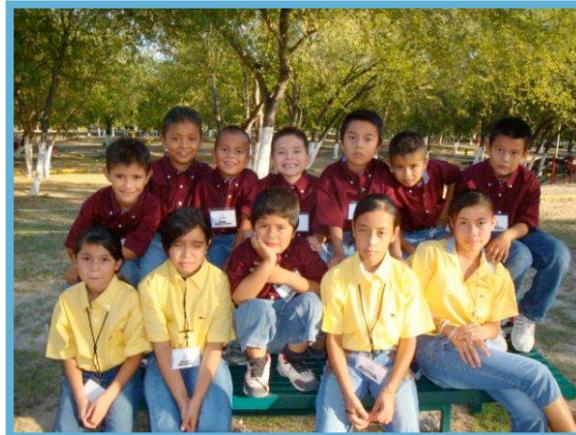
The Amistad AMO® Story in Nuevo Laredo, Chapter One



AMO® Worldview and Teacher Training



AMO® Program Notebook Work



**Club Amistad Children
Victoria en Jesucristo Mission**



AMO® Program Service Project

“AMO® has been a great blessing in our lives, as well as the lives of our children and their parents. Our society is going through a very difficult time. However, we believe that this is the time when we must teach the wonderful truths within the AMO® Program. This program is one of the tools through which God will bring transformation into the hearts and minds of our children and our city. I thank God our mission has the privilege of having the Amistad Club for children based on the AMO® Program.”

— Anita Toress Ortiz, AMO® Director,
Victoria en Jesucristo Presbyterian Mission



“My child has learning disabilities, asthma, and is extremely active. He began attending the Amistad Club with the AMO® Program. We are excited about the transformation taking place in his life. He now has a great interest in learning, a desire for God, and a burden for others. He sees himself of value and knows that God has a purpose for him. Our child is continuously letting us know just how important we are to God. We are pleased with what God is doing in his heart and mind. Thank you.”

— A Mother's Testimony

I trust these stories from the field inspire you to see and appreciate God's providential Hand in your life, as well as your place in His Grand Story of redemption and restoration in the lives and hearts of many around the world.

Thank you for your commitment, dedication, and love for the Truth and for your investment in the next generation! May God continue to bless you, your families, and ministries with His abundant supply.

Jacqi Gough

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