

THE GRACE COMMISSION

MAR &
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BEYOND BORDERS

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Church*

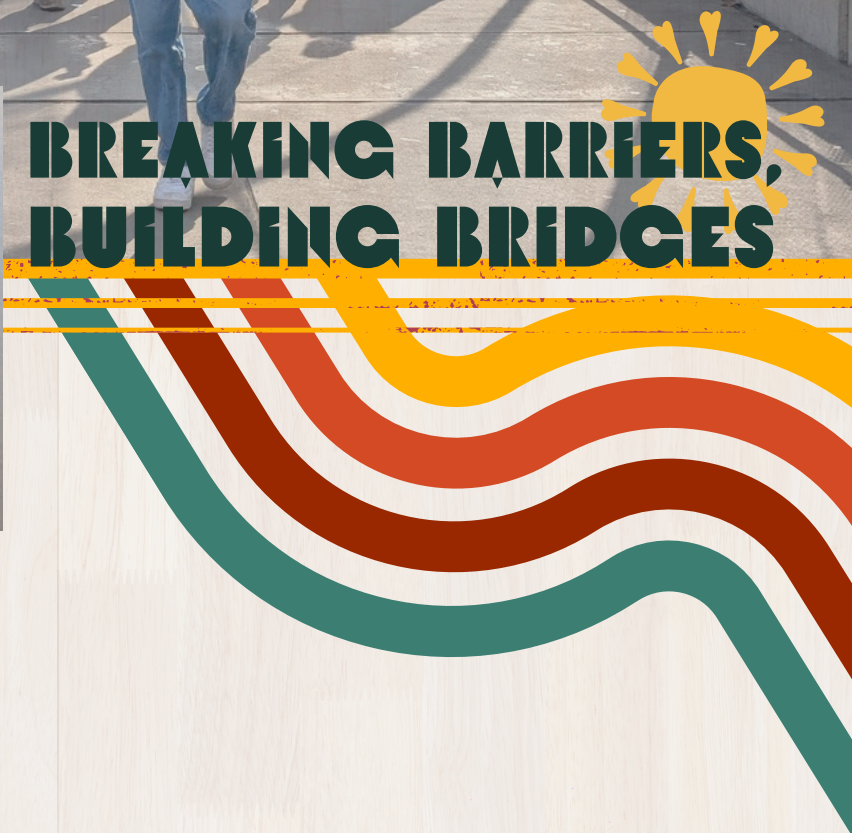
This March, we returned to Tijuana, Mexico! As we continue strengthening our ties with our brothers and sisters at Iglesia Misionera Bet El, we hold grateful hearts for the privilege to participate in the incredible work the Lord is doing at our partner church.

In this issue, Jessica Wong shares about her first time on this mission trip. May you be encouraged by her reflections and continue to lift up our fellow neighbors in prayer.





BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES



By Jessica Wong

“¡Hola! ¡Buenos días! Do you speak Spanish?” a friendly man asks, extending a warm handshake.

“Un poquito (*a little*),” I reply sheepishly.

We both laugh, and in that small moment, an invisible barrier breaks and a bridge begins to form.



**SF City Impact, Feb 2025**

It reminded me of a moment during my recent mission trip to the Tenderloin in San Francisco. There, someone asked, “What language do you speak? Do you speak Chinese?”

“Cantonese, but only a little,” I answered softly.



He chuckled heartily, “Ah, don’t be afraid to speak! You never know—someone might be waiting to hear their language so they don’t feel alone.”

I didn’t think much of it at the time, but it was sage advice.





“You never
know—someone might
be **waiting** to hear
their language so
they **don't** feel
alone.”



When we stepped onto the Centro Misionero Bet El campus, the service was already underway. We quietly made our way to the kitchen and children's areas. The setting was unfamiliar, but the tasks felt familiar—I grabbed a cutting board, found cleaning supplies, and began prepping alongside our team. This, I knew how to do.

As I focused on cutting chicken, two curious faces peeked out from my side.

“What are you doing?” a young voice asked.

“Cutting chicken.”

“That’s *pollo*,” he said proudly.

He pointed in Kim Hong’s direction, “*Papas*—potatoes,” he explained.

Then, holding up an onion, Robert asked, “And what’s this?”

“*Cebolla!*” the boy beamed.

He pointed at the carrots. “*Zanahorias.*”

I tried repeating the word, but stumbled.

“No, no, no... like this: *za-na-or-ee-as!*” he laughed.

I tried again, but my mouth struggled to mimic the sounds. I was hitting the limits of my pronunciation.





Suddenly, shouts and cheers erupted from the children's room. The young boys turned and rushed toward the chorus of laughter— a raucous game of musical chairs had just begun.

Janet told me about the early days of this church, how it was literally built from the ground up. What started as one building has now become three. Seeing the physical manifestation of this explosive growth was invigorating, a testament to the power of the gospel. Becca and a few others shared stories of past worship services when they got to share the stage and lead in song and praise. When I look back on the small brick of memories I have, I am but a small part of a larger story. There is a much bigger bond that binds these two churches, GBC and CM Bet El together, many other bricks of experiences already laid long before I got here.

“**Christ**
brings us
together, even if we
seem **different**
at first.”

As the service ends, the members head towards the lunch line. Chicken curry with rice and garlic cucumbers was on the menu. A hundred people poured out with warm smiles and friendly nods as we passed out meals. Kim Hong introduced us to the woman she teaches English with via Zoom and several members reconnected once again as they met with familiar faces.

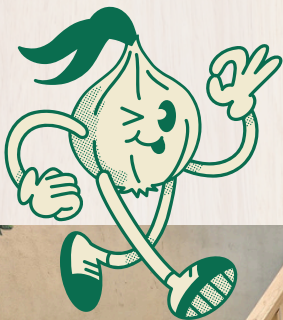
It felt like being reunited with long-lost relatives, even though we'd never met before. We share something deeper—faith. Christ brings us together, even if we seem different at first.



“What I saw
as a **limitation**—
my broken Spanish—
God is showing me
that it is actually
a **doorway**.”

God works through our weaknesses.

What I saw as a limitation—my broken Spanish—God is showing me that it is actually a doorway: an opportunity for connection, humility, and growth. Through small acts—cutting vegetables, laughing with children, serving food—He builds something eternal.



The world says to play to your strengths and hide your weaknesses. God says, give me your weaknesses and I will show you strength.

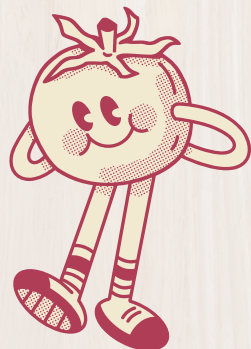
God’s work shines through when we follow Him and trust His plan.

2 Corinthians 12:9 – “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”





“God’s work
shines through when
we **follow** Him
and **trust**
His plan.”



We were only there for a few hours, but it was encouraging to see the gospel in action. I heard so many stories about what God is doing through this friendship between our two churches. It was my first time there, and hopefully not the last. Every visit is a chance to keep building and strengthening the body of Christ.

God is good.

“Todo el tiempo (*All the time*),” they say.

And now, I say it too—with a little more confidence, and a lot more heart.



Thanks to Robert Tsai
and Pr. David Tsai from
First Evangelical
Community Church of
Fullerton for donating a
car to Pr. Guzino!



On this Mexico Mission Trip, we had a special guest join us: Robert Tsai from First Evangelical Community Church Fullerton. He drove his brother's (Pr. David Tsai) car across the border to donate it to Pr. Guzino in Mexico.

"While we were crossing the border, the car was stopped for having expired tags. We were told to get out of the car, and they started searching it. Maybe they thought we had stolen the car and were making a dash to Mexico. After showing them a variety of insurance documents and using a mixture of Portuñol (Portuguese-Spanish), they thankfully let us through." —Matthew Chen

In the end, we were able to donate the car to Pr. Guzino, who had been patiently praying for one.



LOOKING AHEAD

MEXICO MISSION TRIPS

June 29 Sun
Aug 29-31 (Family Trip)

Please see Edi Chen
if interested

2025 SUMMER RETREAT

July 4-6 Fri-Sun

San Diego, CA
Pay by 6/7 (pay to Retreat 2025)
Please see Edi Chen if you have
any questions

