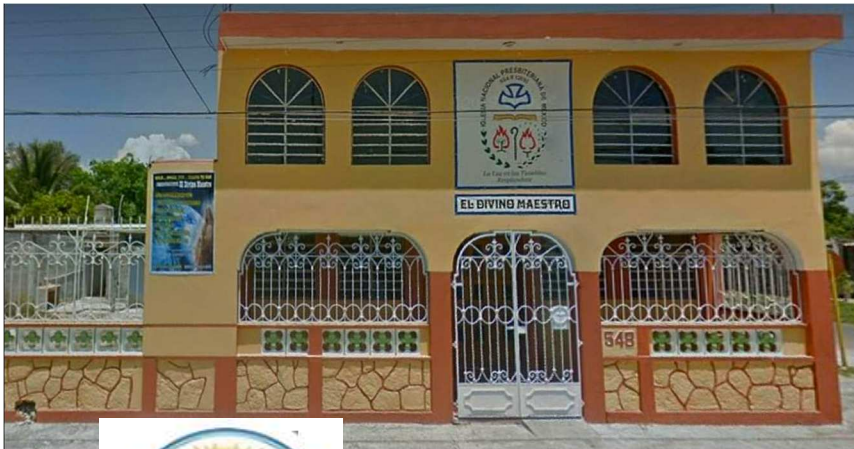


## Church-to-church Partnership, 2002-2007



### Church-to-Church Partnership

Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra and El Divino Maestro Church of Chetumal, Quintana Roo Mexico have been partnering with an exchange of faith, fellowship, and prayer.

The five-year partnership was formed in the winter of 2002. The congregants of El Divino Maestro are learning who WPC is through our visits to Chetumal. We, in turn are learning who they are as partners in faith and love of our Lord through the sharing of these experiences. In addition, this year, **May of 2006, Pastor Ricardo Magana Mena and his lovely wife Martha Leydi Barrera Ruz de Magana visited with us in Palmyra, New York.**

The focus of the visit was to share with them who we are as a church and as a people. We want them to see and experience some of the missions of our church in our community. In addition, we want them to see our community.

Individual members of El Divino Maestro bought T-shirts with partnership symbols on them to exchange with our congregants. This has started yet another way to have members of the 2 churches to share with each other.

To this end, there were celebrations through worship on Mother's Day Sunday with Pastor Ricardo Assisting in serving the communion to our congregation. There were many visits to homes to make personal contacts with as many folks as possible. Food was delivered to recipients of Meals-on-Wheels. Gentle and caring prayer was shared with a family at the hospice in Clifton Springs, House of John. Various women's groups honored them at their functions. Ricardo and Martha Leydi floated through a canal lock as part of their viewing the Barge Canal system. Visiting the amazing Palmyra museums gave a sampling of our historical heritage. Being pinned by the mayor of Palmyra, Victoria Daley was as important to Pastor Ricardo as seeing the names of members of WPC listed as soldiers from WWII, which were found on the wall plaques at the city hall. Pastor Ricardo and Martha Leydi told their story and

expressed the needs of their congregation and community through a Sunday morning hour of sharing along with the Rotary luncheon, which is hosted by our church weekly.

With warm wishes and a magical evening our church sent them on their way. We all wish there was more time to do and share. Their trip home was safe.

All was good and was graced by our Lord.

**Hermanos de fe**  
Brothers of faith

Below is photo of many of our partnering friends from February 2020



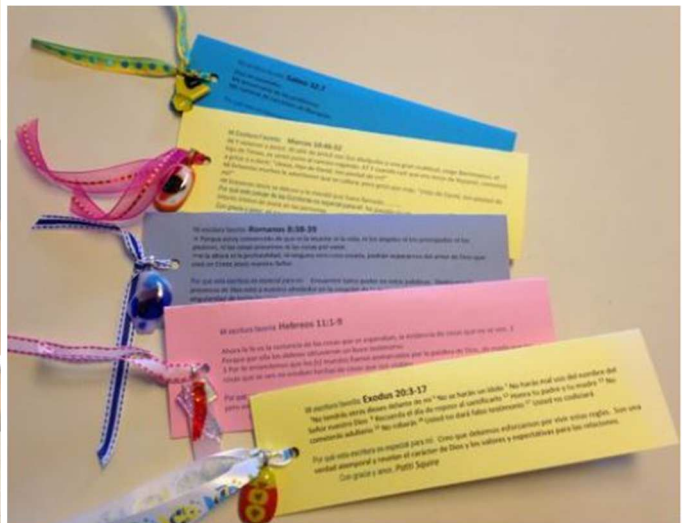
Throughout the partnership there was laughter and singing. There was feasting and prayer. There was an appreciation for our common love for the Lord. Though Pastor Ricardo is no longer the pastor of El Divino Maestro, he has kept in contact with us and remembers us by name. Pastor Ricardo and his family carry us in their prayers. We also carry them in our prayers.







A few months after the February 2020 visit, **Martha Leydi Barrera Ruz de Magana** passed away to sit along the side of her Lord.



On this visit, 14 years after last seeing our brothers and sisters, we sent the gift of our favorite scriptures with a pendant. The very first one presented was to a new believer. He read the scripture and began to cry. There was great meaning that someone that he did not know sent him a scripture that was perfect for him at that place and time in his faith journey. God is great.