

## Busy 2008!

**C**HIA started the year off very busy. CHIA was invited to Mexico City by the Mexican Government under President Felipe Calderon. It was a huge honor for us! While down there we met with many government officials that wanted to thank us for our service to their country over the past 27 years. Additionally, we were able to discuss many of our initiatives for the upcoming years including the Living Water Project.

In February we had the Rockwall group from Lake Pointe Church and a few from Frisco, Texas go to Palomas again. The trip was a combination of a medical clinic and workcamp. The group worked on the new church by finishing out part of the roof and repairing the plumbing and installing a toilet and sink. Wade McKasson of Frisco said *"This was my first mission trip and the experience was so rewarding. It has also given me enormous perspective in my life!"*

In April we had an extremely successful Women's Retreat into Juarez led by Sandy Richardson and Michelle Ward of Plano. They ran Medical Clinics one day at a women's shelter and at a Baptist church the other day. At the shelter they gave manicures to all the women and handed out free clothing. The church was a new church location for CHIA in Juarez and it will be a location that we will continue to go back and serve.

In May Tammie Parnell of Frisco, Texas led a great Mother & Daughter Retreat into Juarez as well. This was a great opportunity for the mothers to spend true quality time with their daughters while serving Christ. Wendy Patterson of Dallas, Texas said *"I loved the fact that the people knew we were there because of our love for Christ, and all we had to do was serve them, and in so doing, serve Him! I especially loved getting to share this experience with my daughter."*



*CHIA group shot with the Secretary of Interior of the government of President Felipe Calderon, Mr. Juan Camilo Mouriño*



*Group shot of the Palomas Team in February from Rockwall and Frisco, Texas*



*Group shot of the Women's Retreat to Juarez in April from Plano and Flower Mound, Texas.*

*The mission of Christian Hands in Action is to touch the world with gifted hands and change hearts with the soul-saving message of Jesus Christ.*

# CHIA Update

Dear Friends of CHIA,  
I feel the need to comment and inform you of the current situation Mexico is in. Many of you have seen on the “news” or read in the newspapers about the heightened travel alert for the state of Chihuahua. While CHIA takes every “alert” serious and would never endanger our missionaries and staff we must do our own due diligence as well. CHIA stays in consistent communications with the pastors and churches in Mexico as well as the Sher-mans (who live in El Paso) meet with them regularly. The unfortunate thing about getting our news here in the U.S. is that we don’t get the “full picture” of what is really going on. There has been an increase in violence/deaths over this past year, but the violence has all been centered around organized crime and drug cartels. The media makes it news for us! They make it appear as if all of Mexico, or all of Juarez, is in a gun fight. I can tell you that is not the case! You must remember that Juarez has over 2 million people in it. Dallas alone has 1.5 million and I see every day on the news about the crime going on in Dallas. However, we all know that Dallas in and of its self is not a dangerous place (just parts). Juarez is no different. We do not take you, nor anyone, to areas where crime is high or where the team may encounter danger. Most of it just requires common sense much like you would not go down to parts of Dallas at 2 in the morning! My wife and I were discussing this very topic one evening. While we were talking the local news started and the first thing they said was “4 children shot, 1 adult killed in a drive-by shooting in Fort Worth.” While that news is disturbing, it doesn’t keep me from traveling over to or through Fort Worth (which is a safe town).

While I have minimized the situation in Mexico, I would still ask that you pray for Mexico! The current President, Felipe Calderon, is trying to clean up the country. When you see situations like this in Mexico, and our own country, it should remind us all more and more that we are in need of a Savior. We have Great News to share with people and we should not hold back just because Satan has tried to put fear in our hearts. The verse in 2 Timothy comes to mind.



Mike Richardson addressing the 75+ attendees at the 2008 CHIA Golf Tournament in May about the “ultra short term” mission experience.



Dr. Sherman, Taylor and Vicki Sweidom and Michael Richardson wait for the rain to lighten up while on the Constitucion Mission trip in May.

## 2 Timothy 1: 7

<sup>7</sup> For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

We should not fear and know that our Lord has given us all “power” so that we can share the Good News with a world that is crying out!

Blessings,  
Mike Richardson  
Executive Director

## My Contact Information

18352 Dallas Parkway #136-408  
Dallas, TX 75287  
mrichardson@chiamissions.org  
214-682-3992

# A Note from The Doctors....

**G**reetings in the name of the Lord from the El Paso team. The last two months have been extremely busy with one mission and event after another. Needless to say, the staff has been pushed to the limit. Linda Wooding left for Canada after giving us four months; she'll be missed, to say the least. We pray the Lord will lead her back to us again in the near future.

The Living Water Project seems to be off and running. We've installed several systems in Juarez, Palomas, Chihuahua, and Constitucion, and the initial reports are generally favorable. A number of ministries have approached us concerning using it not only as an evangelism tool but also, as a means of raising support for the local pastors and missionaries. A number of governors and federal officials in Mexico are considering using the filter systems on a grand scale. Who can say how the Lord will use this tool. The Women's Retreat and the Mother/Daughter missions this past month were unbelievably great outreaches. Many lives were touched, not the least of

whom were the mission teams themselves. Many of the women were able to witness things they have only heard about. I think it was a real eye opener for the women to observe firsthand the conditions that many women deal with in third world countries.

I'll be taking a team with the First Nazarene Church of Denver, CO to Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo late July/early August. Please keep this large team in your prayers, as there are a lot of potential problems going that far away in the unstable world we have today. While this is not a CHIA mission as such, our Christian brothers in Denver very much want Sue and me to lead the medical/dental team. Summer teams are lining up rapidly; there still is room for more participants in July and August. Of course, it's never too late to begin planning for the fall trips. We in El Paso are looking forward to seeing many of you again in the near future.

**John M Sherman MD**  
Medical Director



*Dr. Sherman and Robyn Collins of The Colony, Texas deliver a water filter for the Living Water Project to the church in Juarez in April.*



*Dr. Mini Soriano with Nicole La Barbera of Frisco, Texas in Juarez in April.*



*Girls from the Mother & Daughter Retreat play with the local kids in May.*

## Continue Your Donations in The Summer

You can make your donations on-line via our website ([www.chiamissions.org](http://www.chiamissions.org)). CHIA is a 501(C)(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible. Any gift is extremely appreciated.





18352 Dallas Parkway, #136-408, Dallas, TX. 75287  
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*Mother & Daughter Retreat group shot before going into Juarez this May.*

### Remaining Open Trips for 2008

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Journey Level</u>	<u>Status</u>
6/12/2008	Santa Elena	Work Camp	Level 2	✔ Open
7/10/2008	Villa Ahumada	Med/Dent/Opto	Level 1	✔ Open
8/6/08	Villa Ahumada	Med/Dent/Opto	Level 1	✔ Open
9/11/2008	Palomas	Med/Dent/Opto/ Work Camp	Level 1	✔ Open
10/2/2008	Villa Ahumada	Med/Dent/Opto	Level 1	✔ Open
11/13/2008	Constitucion	Med/Dent/Opto	Level 1	✔ Open



### **PASSPORTS (UPDATE)**



CHIA is encouraging everyone get their U.S. Passports as soon as possible. Although the restriction for a Passport for **LAND TRAVEL** has been pushed back again, the wait time in getting your passport can be up to 12+ weeks. Below is the **CURRENT** dates from the US Government concerning **LAND TRAVEL** into and from Mexico.

**CURRENTLY:** U.S. citizens need to present either (a) a passport, passport card (available in spring 2008), or WHTI-compliant document; or (b) a government-issued photo ID, such as a driver's license, along with proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate.

**LATER:** On June 1, 2009, the U.S. government will implement the full requirements of the land and sea phase of WHTI. The proposed rules require most U.S. citizens entering the United States at sea or land ports of entry to have a passport, passport card, or WHTI-compliant document.