

Open Space Report
2/25/10

Name: The Bridging Borders Group

Who was there:

Facilitator: Erin Dunigan

Ryan Romberg, Gloria Isenhour, Chris Logan Tom Dykhuizen, John Skelly, Chuck Wakamoto

What happened

Erin discussed life in La Mision. It's not a "churchy place" but people will attend events interesting to them like Erin's ordination or talks by Gary Wilburn. Erin is considered their pastor.

No formal program but discussions.

Living among the community as an incarnational presence. Former priests, drug addicts, terminally ill are some of the real people in this community. Most have been wounded by the church and have left. Most now don't go to any church. How do you find ways to help bring God into their lives.

Is there another model to get to know people in the community. It may lead to building homes, etc. but the basis is more relational. The community offers hospitality like most church don't. Facebook allows them to stay in touch. Is small town Mexico.

Is it too dangerous to go to Mexico? Erin feels that the LA Times has given a misleading view of small town Mexico. She feels it is safe.

One way to help the local economy of the village is for us to take intentional vacations or retreats in Mexico.

Another suggestion might be for Erin to bring goods north to sell.

We have a lot to learn by spending time and hanging out with La Mision folk.

The Roman Catholic and Pentecostal Churches—is there any way to network with other local church leaders?

How many are in this "community?"

A Christmas Eve service—Erin had 14 people involved. Meaningful. No formal sermon, except at Easter.

Funding comes from 6 partner churches.

Point is to see transformed lives.

A new language is needed for what this is. Not a mission trip.

Where to go from here

Go to Mexico

Setting up an orientation for people from our churches interested in a trip.

4 groups of 20 people come down quarterly.

Families or couples or individuals can also go there.

Erin's house is open space.

Erin will guset preach at Community, Long Beach

John Skelly will help her raise funds.