



## MINUTE FOR MISSION

June 1, 2005

### What Does the Lord Require of You?

On a cold January day in the high desert border town of Agua Prieta, the Lily of the Valley Presbyterian Church was gathered for worship. On this day, seven strangers were welcomed into the worshipping fellowship. Scraped, battered, and bruised, both physically and mentally, these strangers were men who had left their lands in the south of Mexico when coffee prices had plummeted and attempted to cross into the United States to work in a chicken processing plant in Kentucky. They had encountered the terrifying reality of what the U.S./Mexican border has become over the last decade.



The Lily of the Valley Church turned twenty years old on May 11, 2005. This small congregation of sixty-five members has a powerful mission of Christian hospitality. Despite its limited resources, the congregation has provided spiritual and physical refuge to hundreds of people who find themselves far from home. In addition, members have been instrumental in ministries of compassion and justice.

The Lily of the Valley Church has given out over two thousand blankets to help warm men, women, and children who are being deported back to Mexico on cold nights.

Over the last two years, the congregation has partnered with Frontera de Cristo, a Presbyterian Binational Border Ministry, and Healing Our Borders/Sanando Nuestras Fronteras to give out over two thousand blankets to men women and children being deported back into Mexico



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from the United States on bitterly cold nights and early mornings before sunrise. Maria Guadalupe was returned at around 1 A.M. in 20-degree weather with a group of fourteen from Puebla. They had been lost in the desert for three days. Members of the Lily of the Valley Church greeted them and gave them a warm place to stay for the night. Maria Guadalupe shared that two members of the group, Ismael and Ester, were atheists and that she had shared the gospel with them in the desert and told them that God would provide. She said that the members of the Lily of the Valley were angels and that now Ismael and Ester were open to receiving God into their lives.

In 2004, Pastor Rodolfo Navarrete and members of the church helped organize the Agua Para la Vida (Water for Life) ministry that provided 17,000 gallons of life-saving water on migrant trails on the Mexican side of the border. In 2003, forty migrants who walked these trails died from dehydration. In 2004, there were only ten deaths due to dehydration. Agua Para la Vida has the goal of expanding the water ministry to 67,000 gallons in 2005 and completely eliminating deaths on desert trails due to dehydration.

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*Do you have a mission story to tell? Would you like to read inspiring stories of Presbyterians in mission? Visit the Witness Season Web site: [www.pcusa.org/witness](http://www.pcusa.org/witness). New minutes for mission are posted on the 1st and 15th of each month.*

*For more information on the Witness Season mission education emphasis contact Billie Healy, Associate for Mission Education Resources (888) 728-7228, ext. 5689, or [Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org](mailto:Bhealy@ctr.pcusa.org).*

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