

CENTRAL MEXICO MISSION TRIP MARCH 2022

San Luis de la Paz, Guanajuato

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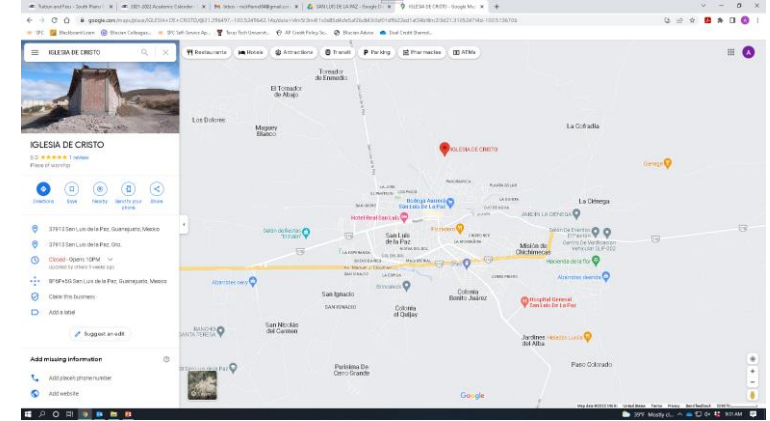
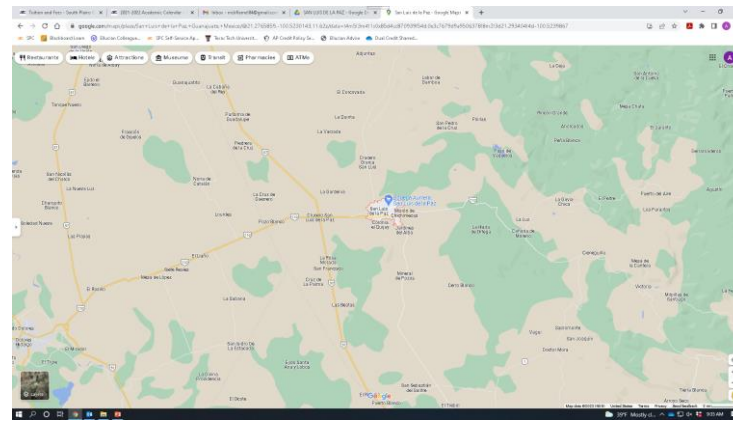
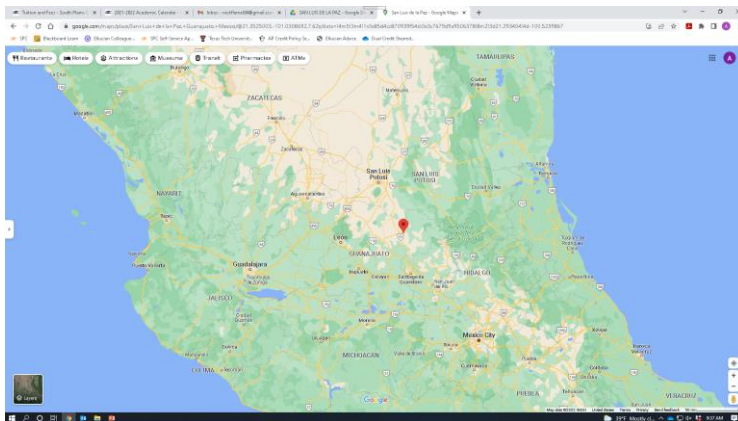
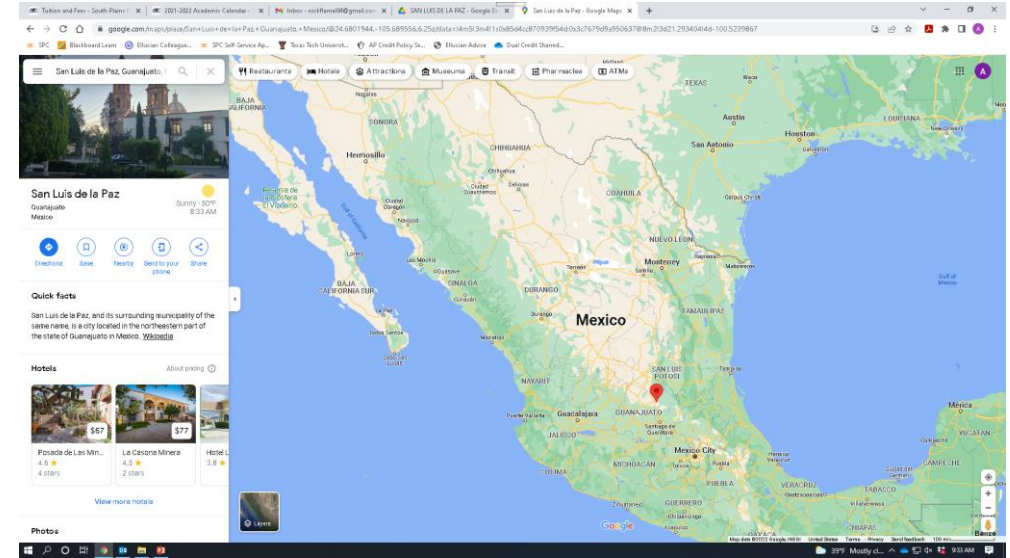
Soledad de Graciano Sánchez, San Luis Potosí

Sponsored by Green Lawn Church of Christ, Lubbock, TX.

Art & Milena Martínez

Day 1 – March 12, 2022

- 180-day permit to travel beyond the border was required.
- No issues traveling to San Luis de la Paz.
- Roads were safe!
- Paid for a few toll roads.
- “Welcome to Guanajuato!”



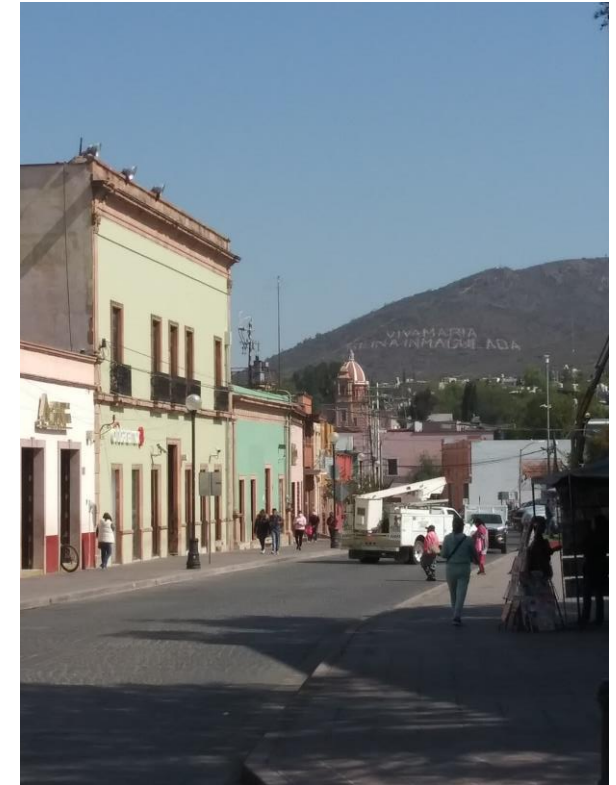
Location of San Luis de la Paz, as well as the church within the city. The building is at a higher point on the mountainside. The ‘IGLESIA DE CRISTO’ location appears on ‘Google Maps’!



San Luis de la Paz sign in main square / Dinner at Martin's house upon arrival on March 12 / Martin's wood shop at home / Martin's children, Sofia and Ezequiel, and our kids, Israel and Deborah in the gazebo of the main square.



The town (right) is so traditional, that on the mountainside it reads, "Hail Mary the Immaculate".



Day 2 – March 13, 2022



First full day in San Luis de la Paz. Sunday! We loaded Martin's truck with chairs, tables, and propane tank for church services. This is done every Sunday, since the metal doors have not arrived yet. We cleaned the building before setting up the auditorium. The building is in a corner; sign reads "The Church of Christ gathers here".



Church services and fellowship afterwards. Most members of the congregation are women; several of the men went back to their 'old ways' during Covid. Martin has been working with them to come back to worship, even going to the rehab center to visit those who fell into drugs.

Day 3 – March 14, 2022



Church building is still under construction. Main entrance metal (and quite heavy) side doors have been ordered. They have a water deposit; no water pump yet, until doors are installed. They were broken-in once and materials were stolen. A neighbor sent her kids to steal! A report was filed. Current funds (\$35K pesos, \$1,733 USD) will cover main side doors costs and restroom installation. Will need funding for wall finishers, windows, and other details. Cost of materials have increased. ☹️ Martin will send us an estimate.





We did coating on the auditorium floor; the main structure of the building is complete! Martin has been keeping receipts of all expenses since we first sent aid to finish the building. I have just a couple of picture, since they're so many!

Day 4 – March 15, 2022



On Tuesday we worked on the fellowship hall / classroom area. We swept first to get rid of excess dirt, then applied coating. A lot of the construction is being done by Martin and his wife on their spare time, to save on labor costs. It is hard to find trustworthy contractors; one of the sister's husband has come out with his workers to build major parts of the building. What is left to finish includes: restrooms, doors and windows, wall finishers, and utility installation. The main structure, as seen in pictures is now complete. Martin will work on installing the restrooms and wall finishers. The main doors will be installed soon. Martin is self-employed and teaches martial arts one day a week, so he is able to adjust his schedule to work on the construction.

Fellowship with Martin's family



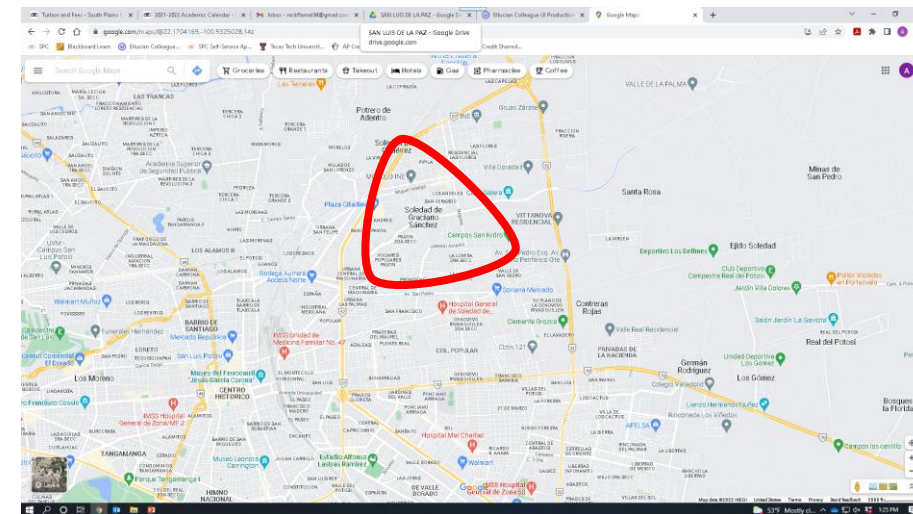
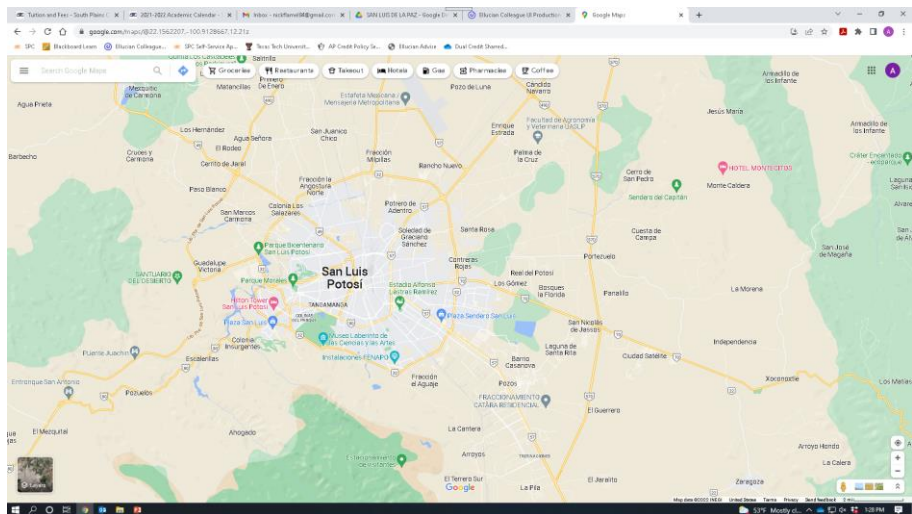
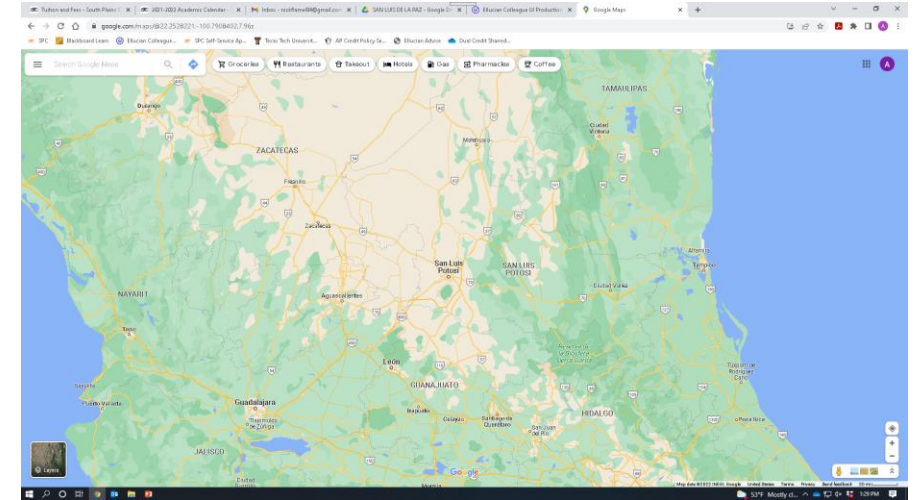
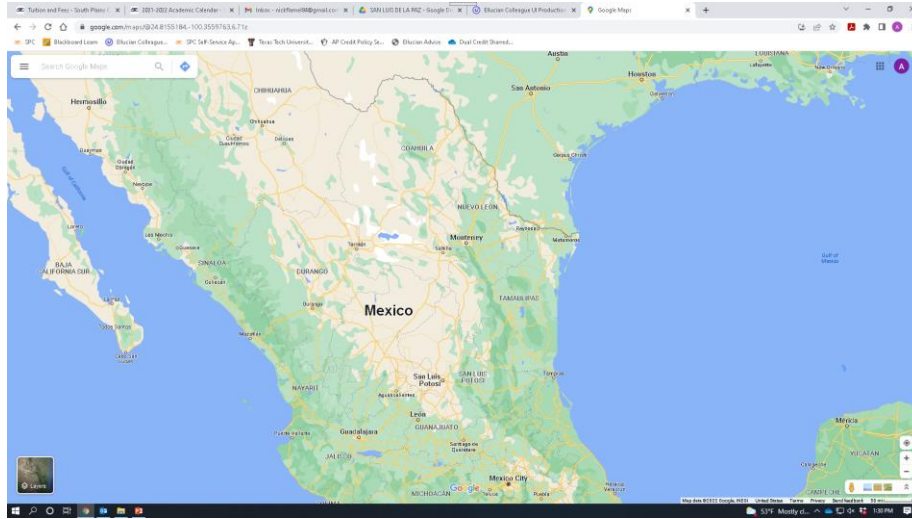
Final remarks from San Luis de la Paz:

- We visited with Martin and his family during our stay. Went to the plaza and took them out to dinner Sunday and Monday.
- Getting receipts was rather challenging due to many establishments being local, and rather small for all of us.
- The hotel was nice and cozy! Hotel Real de San Luis is highly recommended!
- Cards are accepted at major places only, such as hotel, gas station, and chain stores.
- San Luis de la Paz is typical central Mexico small town; many places only accept cash.
- The town is safe to walk through at night.



Day 5 – March 16, 2022 – Visit to church in Soledad, San Luis Potosí (SLP) [San Pedro Church of Christ]

Location of the city of Soledad de Graciano Sanchez. As you can see, it is part of the metropolitan area of the greater city of San Luis Potosí, capital of the State of San Luis Potosí. Traveling southeast on highway 57, we get to San Luis de la Paz within 1 hour and 15 min.





We visited the congregation, San Pedro Church of Christ in Soledad, San Luis Potosí, on Wednesday, March 16. Mid-week class is at 8 p.m.; members usually get home from work after 6 p.m., thus 8 p.m. is a more convenient time for most, including Pedro and Lili. My dad was voluntold to teach that night; I led the singing. We had fellowship afterwards and Pedro gave a brief speech of how we have helped financially to add classrooms to the building. One of the members cried!



Here we have the classrooms built with Green Lawn's help. They desperately needed these because they were having children classes outside, by the street! We were impressed how many people, several of them teenagers, attended Wednesday night.

Teenage girls teach the children; Lili and the other women have done a great job in including teenage girls in the ministry.

Teenage boys and men are taught by Pedro to minister and lead services.

The members are very thankful for the aid sent; Lili expressed the challenges they have faced over the years, but God never forsook them. Pedro and Lili follow the old-school method for reaching souls: door by door teaching at homes. They do this evenings and weekends.

Current need. They have \$32K pesos left (about \$1,584 USD), and Pedro has been keeping tabs of all the expenses as well.

Additional aid will be needed for baptistry (currently they have a tub), wall finishers, and finish the restroom. Pedro will send us an estimate.

Overall, we had an amazing experience and we hope to visit both sites soon. On a personal note, it was good to see Martin and his family, as well as Pedro and Lili; I've known Martin and Lili since high school, and Pedro since college. Our friendship has remained for nearly 20 years!

We plan on stopping by, God willing, this summer (perhaps late July, after visiting family), to drop off materials for the children's ministry.

I will continue to send pictures through Group Me

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

Contact me if you have any questions

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