

Todd and Maria Luke, Outreach Global Workers
in Campechano Presbytery, Campeche, Mexico
<https://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/luke-todd-and-maria>

Todd and Maria Luke's Gospel-driven outreach to build cisterns in Mexico gives families — many of whom are indigenous Ch'ols suffering from a lack of clean water — access to an abundant supply of rainwater.

Ch'ol Presbyterian laymen organize families to build family-owned cisterns that collect rainfall. Through this project, hundreds of families have easy access to millions of gallons of rainwater; and, in the process, the Gospel is shared.

Generally, U.S. mission partners work with Mexican partners to lighten the physical load of building a cistern. During the process, Mexican partners teach useful construction skills, demonstrate the value of partnership, pray together, and share the Good News in a casual and natural manner.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are not able to send American mission groups to build cisterns this year. Generous financial support from the American church and from family partners is helping build up to 40 cisterns this year. We hope to resume sending mission groups to



Campeche in 2022. We pray the Holy Spirit will empower the hearts of all involved to be assured of the continuing grace of Jesus Christ.

The Outreach Foundation seeks gifts totaling \$50,400 for Todd Luke's support. The cost of one cistern is \$2,000.

From their February, 2021 update
(view the entire letter on the website):

In addition to the many tasks he already performs to support the cistern process, Felipe Torres, our associate in Xpujil, now leads a small crew that visits each of our cistern partners who have repaid at least \$2,000 pesos of their cistern materials loan.

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The purpose of the team's house call is to:

- 1) Check the current water level in the cistern.
- 2) Make sure all inlets and outlets are in good working order.
- 3) Replace any worn-out or broken parts.
- 4) Talk with the family about their cistern.
- 5) Remove any mold and dirt from the exterior walls and roof.
- 6) Apply a fresh coat of white paint.

All these expenses are covered by funds from the repayments made by the family being visited.

When a family agrees to work with us to acquire a cistern, they take on many responsibilities. Among them is a commitment to provide a lot of manual labor. This is not just for their own cistern, but also for the cisterns of several neighbors.

The cistern owner also agrees to repay — little by little — the entire cost of the construction materials. This loan is interest-free, with no collateral, and with no signed contract. Repayments signal to us that the family's cistern remains important to them.

With each service call, Felipe shows the family that we remain interested in them, and in their clean water situation. We want to make sure their cistern provides clean water for decades to come.

I like that we can fund these visits without making a special appeal to our U.S. partners. If you or your church donated money for

a cistern in the past — and if the family is making repayments — your initial investment continues to make an impact.

It is great that our work in Mexico continues even when U.S. partners are unable to be directly involved. Back in 2002, when we built the first cistern, we purposefully created a process that our local Mexican friends could perform themselves from start to finish. We resolved to include — as often as possible — unskilled American hands, to assist our skilled Mexican partners by moving tons and tons of sand and gravel.

This year, the mental, physical, and spiritual costs will be greater than ever before. We are certain that cistern construction will be much more difficult without the combined strength of our American and Mexican partners.

Year after year, our Mexican partners share how important it is for them to have us work, laugh, worship, and pray by their side.

They don't just say that to be polite. Cistern construction requires more than strength, experience, technical skill, and endurance. It has an unquantifiable spiritual component. Our brothers need encouragement. They are full-time farmers, not full-time construction workers. Cistern building is not their career. It is their ministry.

Please pray for our friends.
Pray for our partnership.