



XPUJIL, MEXICO

WATER CISTERN MINISTRY

Rainwater Harvesting

Westminster took it's first team to Xpujil the summer of 2024. Xpujil is in the southern portion of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula—close to Belize and Guatemala. Teams spend the week working alongside Ch'ol Presbyterian partners on 4 cisterns at a time mixing concrete to be poured into molds that form the water cistern. Read or click on the link below to learn more about this ministry.

[CLICK HERE!](#)



The
Outreach
FOUNDATION™

For more information:

Scott Neely, Director of Mission & Community Connections
scott.neely@westpreschurch.org

XPUJIL, MEXICO WATER CISTERN MINISTRY

The Cistern Ministry—A Rainwater Harvest

We build family-owned cisterns. Cisterns are reinforced concrete tanks that collect and stores the rainwater that falls on the roof of the family home. We work with four families at a time. Our local crew works side by side with the families. Each cistern has a 6,300 gallon capacity and provides the owner-family with a year-round supply of potable water. We began building cisterns in 2002. Those are still in operation. We expect all our cisterns to last for many decades with minimal maintenance and upkeep.

Measurable Results

Our cistern partnership has built more than 650 family-owned cisterns in twenty-six villages. Constant use and seasonal rainfall enable the cisterns to empty and refill more than twice each year. This means our cisterns have the potential to supply families with around eight million gallons of rainwater annually.

Front-loaded Investment/Long-Term Dividends

\$3,000 dollars will build a cistern that will provide an abundant and easily accessible source of clean water for decades. The design has one moving part—the outlet faucet located at the bottom of the cistern. Gravity delivers and dispenses the rainwater. The low-tech design creates easy and affordable maintenance.

A Family Commitment

Each cistern-owner family invests time, materials, and income into the building process. Family members help build their own cistern and the cisterns of three of their neighbors during the building process which takes about two weeks from start to finish.

Each Cistern is a Unique Micro-Loan Opportunity

The cistern owner family agrees to repay, over time, the cost of materials needed to build the cistern. There is no signed contract, collateral, or interest rate on the loan. Each family is asked to repay the equivalent of \$50 US dollars per year. When the loan is repaid, the owner may request another cistern.

All the villages want more cisterns. Unfortunately, we have limited resources. Our local partners decide where to build in the future based, in part, on which towns have the highest percentage of cistern-owner families making annual loan repayments.

A Grassroots Water Harvest Partnership

Our Mexican partners can build cisterns building from start to finish with the families that lack the financial resources to purchase the construction materials. American helpers lighten the load by dozens of tons, raise the spirits of our Christian Mexican work crew, and reflect God's love to all who pass the worksite and see this unusual sight.

