

THE JULY 4, 2008 BORDER PRAYER EVENT AT SAN DIEGO - TIJUANA

By Guy Chadwick – *Arizona Call to Prayer, Mexico-USA Border Prayer Alliance*

Not only was July 4, 2008 the annual celebration of Independence Day for our nation, but also the 160th anniversary of the proclamation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo of 1848, which to this day is the prevailing governmental document for the Mexico-USA border. In the context of the intense border issues our two nations face, pastors and intercessory leaders gathered to pray at several key sites along the border on this historic day.

One key site is at the beginning survey point of the nearly 2,000 mile border at the southwest corner of the U.S. about 15 miles south of San Diego at the border fence with Tijuana. This location's event was coordinated primarily by Tijuana Pastor Fernando Piña along with Larry and Sharon Lindstrom of the *U.S.-MEX Strategic Border Alliance* of San Diego, and *Arizona Call to Prayer's* Guy Chadwick, with participation by several pastors and intercessory leaders on both sides of the fence. The site is marked by a marble monument at the border fence just fifty yards off the shore of the Pacific Ocean.



The event on the morning of July 4th was both solemn and joyful. There was an immediate awareness of God's presence as we began with opening prayers and worship. We then prayed following the 7 points of the Border Prayer Initiative with a prayer leader from each side of the fence taking turns on each point. The 7 prayer points, all based directly on the language of the Treaty, include acknowledging God, restoring good foundations, establishing relations of peace and friendship, conferring reciprocal benefits, assuring concord, harmony, and mutual confidence, living as good neighbors, and seeking the protection of Almighty God.

THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO – Proclaimed July 4, 1853

IN THE NAME OF ALMIGHTY GOD

The United States of America and the United Mexican States animated by a sincere desire to put an end to the calamities of war which unhappily exists between the two Republics and to establish upon a solid basis relations of peace and friendship, which shall confer reciprocal benefits upon the citizens of both, and assure the concord, harmony, and mutual confidence wherein the two people should live as good neighbors... after a reciprocal communication of their respective full powers, have, under the protection of Almighty God, the author of peace, arranged, agreed upon, and signed the following: Treaty of Peace, Friendship, Limits, and Settlement between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic.

ARTICLE I: There shall be a firm and universal peace between the United States of America and the Mexican Republic, and between their respective countries, territories, cities, towns, and people, without exception of places or persons."



Pastor Fernando then led a particularly moving time of repentance between our nations during which we humbly knelt as the Lord worked reconciliation in our hearts. We then touched hands through the fence recognizing the presence of God in our activities, and the grace for new beginnings here at the very head of the border.



We also formally read and proclaimed in both English and Spanish the Preamble and Article I of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The straightforward reading of this proclamation on its 160th anniversary was very powerful. In particular, the re-acknowledgment of God over our nations as originally declared by the Treaty was most significant! Throughout the proceedings there was worship and the blowing of the shofar on both sides of the fence at appropriate times. After our meeting of one and half hours we then poured oil from Israel into the ocean at the border fence. We know that this event, along with others at key border locations on this day, marked a new beginning in our international relations toward reconciliation and peace.



The Mexican contingent was well represented with more than 50 participants, including at least five pastors, several families, and a beautiful banner announcing the Mexico-US Border Prayer Alliance. On the U.S. side, we had 12 participants, including a couple that owns a nearby ranch and hosts regular weekly border prayer.

At the conclusion of the event there was a releasing of balloons, blowing of the shofars, and shouts of joy!



On the U.S. side there is a border patrol gate to the Border State Beach Park only open on weekends and holidays. From the gate there is a road that leads to the border fence and monument and other historic plaques for the site. Down the embankment, the fence leads right out into the Pacific Ocean.