

Mission News

FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

March 2018



Janelle Keller, *Editor*
Charla Pereau
Assistant Editor

Our Purpose:

To glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ. To this end, we share and demonstrate God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit by meeting basic spiritual, emotional, physical, and educational needs of those in Mexico and beyond.

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Hope for the Illiterate



Charla in Fifth Grade

When I was a child there was no emphasis on educating little girls. School started at first grade. The alphabet was written above the black board and children were expected to memorize it (it was yet to be set to music).

After several weeks I was the first to be called on to recite the alphabet. I stood facing the class and said, "ZYXWVUT..." The children laughed and the teacher was shocked. This was before dyslexia or dysgraphia was diagnosed.

I managed to pass through from first to second grade, but in third grade I sat in the corner wearing a dunce cap. There were numerous other humiliations because I couldn't read.

In 1942, a fifth grade teacher disregarded the culmination of records and thought she could teach me to read. There was a movie soon to be released at the historic Fox Theater in downtown Detroit. She said, "*Charla if you read this book I will take you to see Bambi.*" Miraculously I read "Bambi." My teacher, Miss Devries took me to the theater to see "Bambi."

She gave me numerous other small books published by Moody Press. "Dr. Livingstone, I Presume," "Mary Slessor of Calabar," Hudson Taylor's "Spiritual Secret." Thus the seeds were planted for missions. Perhaps it is needless to say but I am passionate about teaching literacy.

Literacy classes are being taught in the mountains of Oaxaca. You can designate gifts for this vital ministry. Visit ffhm.org/support-financially or call (949) 492-2200.

Charla Pereau, FFHM Founding Director

Education



A student in the classroom

What a great start to the year!! Two main themes that have guided this school year are that God is creative and that the word of God is living and active. We want our children to enjoy using their God-given creativity, so we are working hard to make education fun and exciting in order that they will pursue life-long learning.

We also desire that each child will walk with God throughout their lives. The children are learning large chunks of scripture and every morning they jump and sing which is then followed by a story reinforcing biblical truths.

We have expanded the English portion of our program because our kids love speaking in English! We are also making sure that each child not only learns how to read, but that they become confident readers. It's encouraging to see their excitement for reading and many come regularly to ask for more books from the library!

I enjoy seeing advances in our children. One little girl has even successfully learned how to read on her own. At the beginning of the year, when the children were asked to do daily reading, they groaned and complained. Now the children are competing to see who can read the most!



We're reading

We also had a little girl start the year who had lived on the street her whole life. She had never been to school and did not understand structure at all. The beginning of the school year was very complicated for her! And now she has very clear handwriting and has learned all her letters up until the letter P!

We are excited about what this next semester holds and hopeful about the advances our children are going to make! Thank you for praying for us as we invest in these children's lives!

Cheryl Trevor, Baja School Principal

Earthquake in Oaxaca



The devastation

It started with a question from a doctor about where we had purchased the wooden pallets for our new stage. This question resulted in our driving with a caravan of vehicles to an earthquake damaged community that is five hours away from the **Oaxaca Mission**. We brought them wooden pallets to create a floor so that those most affected wouldn't have to sleep on the wet ground.



Our caravan

More than the visible destruction, they were struck by the continued fear in the people there. There have been hundreds of aftershocks, which brings back the memory of the first one that changed their world. So, after seeing this deep need we gathered a team to go and share about a God who loves and cares for them and a hope that casts out all fear.

We spent time building relationships with the women and creating fun for the children there.



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Crafts with the children

Earthquake in Oaxaca



Temporary housing

We also had the opportunity to give out 500 warm blankets with notes of encouragement. It struck me how receptive people were to us. I am hopeful that the notes will leave a lasting impression on those who received them, and that this donation will warm their bodies and hearts as they endure very cold nights.

We live in a time when it is easy to become overwhelmed by the natural disasters and evil acts in our world.

In this age of information, we get news so quickly about the hurting state of our world. But we are NOT without hope. There is great power in prayer and in the tangible ways we can love those God has placed around us in this life.

Laura Rodriguez, Oaxaca Mission Administrator



Offering help



Handing out blankets

Staff Housing Dedication

For years many of our staff at the Baja Mission lived in trailers that had been lovingly donated by friends of the ministry. While these were great for short term staff they weren't adequate for those giving years of their lives to this place. The trailers were saunas in the summer and ice boxes in the winter.

A plan was developed to tear down a motel that was on the property in 1966 when Chuck and Charla made their first trip to Vicente Guerrero and replace it with two story housing with 16 apartments.



The Old Motel

After years of fundraising for this project and hard work from the construction team and many volunteers, this project is finally complete!



New staff housing

In January, the staff and a few donors gathered to dedicate this building to God and give Him thanks for all the ways He provided.

Janelle Keller, Executive Director

Hans Visser writes:

At the dedication there were words of appreciation to many people who were all involved in different ways to make this building a reality.

There were words by Jill the Baja Mission Administrator, and Janelle, the Executive Director of the organization. Then I had the privilege of cutting the ribbon.

But first I was led to present a short message based on Psalm 127. Unless the Lord builds the house it's builders labor in vain which is a biblical truth and is very familiar.

In our case it was our Bible wedding text. In all our years we have learned it takes a lot of prayer and listening to His voice to get the Lord involved in building the house. In the building process of our lives, we too often want to take charge ourselves. And it is by God's amazing grace that this staff housing is now a reality.

It is here because of His building skills. In the building process He was molding and guiding all those involved. It is not so much the actual bricks and mortar, but the heart and lives it touches in the process. Unless the Lord builds the house, it's builders labor in vain.

Now, I was privileged to cut the ribbon followed by prayer and thanksgiving by Pastor Mario. The service was concluded by refreshments and a time of reflection.



Hans Visser and Mario Cordoba



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Thank you, Father, for those who care!

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Betty Smedberg

By Lee Carlson

Kenneth & Aurora Dwyer

Kermit & Marilyn Dwyer

Barbara & Gordon Smith

By Rosilyn Smith

By Mark & Rosie Smith

By Linda Mosse & children

By Maria Schaefer & children

Jim & Bertie Knowlton

By June Macadam

**Terry Braaten - for many years
of work at the Mission**

By Fletcher Gober

Jeanne Fish

By Terence and Gigi Northrop

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Mr. Dick Gail

By Dottie Klein

Patricia Mcphederain

By Sharon Bell

By Katherine Nicklin

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Marilyn Riese

By Anne Dechamps

Barb Christian

By Anne Dechamps

Susan Eichensehr's birthday

By Stephen Horsfield

Joy-Allison Diaz

By Pat Hishmeh

Hellikki Tikkanen's

70th Birthday

By The Leighton, Sheridan

& Bohn Families

Susanna Payne &

Dan Dahlby's Wedding

By Alan & Sandy Alford

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