

MISSION NEWS

Foundation for His Ministry - Transforming communities in Mexico starting with kids.



Expanding our Capacity: A New Home

Last November, my family and I relocated from the Baja Mission in Vicente Guerrero to a house we are renting on the outskirts of Tijuana. It's been an adventure as we have dreamed about the future and watched God at work. When we first arrived, we started connecting with local relators in order to purchase a building that could be used for a children's home. We visited the local government run shelter again

and told them of our plans and they immediately asked if we would be willing to take in teenagers. There are many children's homes in Tijuana, but most will only accept children under the age of 12. Even though working with teenagers can be challenging we also know that it is a great opportunity to make disciples.

So, we began the search for the right property. The first house we looked at said it had six bedrooms which I thought would be perfect for a children's home. Our dream for our next children's home is to create space that is less institutional and feels more like family. We envision houses, grouped together in communities so children eat in dining rooms, not cafeterias and sleep in bedrooms, not

dormitories. But when we arrived there, we realized it actually was a house that had been converted into six apartments, each with their own kitchen, bathroom and living area. Then the idea came to me, this would be perfect for our university students and the current "TJ House" could be used for a children's home. We have seen the need to offer more opportunities and independence to our young adults transitioning out of our homes while still maintaining a support structure. We continue to wait for God to lead us to the right property as soon as the quarantine is over. Please be praying with us that we will find the "perfect" building.

Jill Smith
Director of Mexico Operations



An Update from Oaxaca

WHAT DOES LIFE LOOK LIKE AT THE MISSION?

The birds are singing, the sun is shining, and occasionally we get a lovely rainstorm. Life within the mission still looks fairly normal. Most of us have our usual work to do and the children have their studies to complete. However, there are a few smaller changes that have taken place around here.

We've had to come up with new ways to fill a few areas usually covered by staff or volunteers. Several of our older teens are helping with things such as accounting, cleaning and even taking care of the younger kids. While we always begin to increase the responsibilities of the teenagers as they grow older, we have been impressed by their positive attitude and maturity as they help out even more during this time.

Our elementary school here continues as normal, but the middle school and high school students are doing on-line learning. Everyone seems to have a lot of homework but most evenings you will find the kids playing together on the playground or basketball court. On Sunday evenings we try to do an activity together as a mission in the hope that this time will hold special memories for the kids when they look back on it.

Some days are harder than others. The lack of outside visitors really affects the kids. We are trying to show more grace and love toward one another in these struggles. Increasing our love for one another is no longer just a nice idea, but something to put into practice in order to remain united during this time.

WHAT DOES LIFE LOOK LIKE IN OAXACA?

Oaxaca has recently become much stricter due to government regulations. Many towns have roadblocks or "filters" you have to go through in order to enter and some do not allow you to stop in the town, only pass through. There are even towns where you get fined or put in jail for a few hours if you enter without a facemask.

There are many families affected by the lack of tourism and are finding themselves in increasing economic need. These physical/economic difficulties are as far reaching as the prisons. Typically, family members are required to provide for a prisoner's needs but with limited visitation access many are running out of basic necessities. One of the local prisons contacted Pablo, the prison ministry supervisor, asking for help and support. We are preparing to respond with donations of food and supplies for these people, as well as other local families that are in need right now.

HOW FFHM HAS BEEN ABLE TO RESPOND TO THE COMMUNITY DURING THIS TIME:

The missionaries serving in the mountains are finding new ways to help their communities. Maria Villa Pablo has been broadcasting information on the radio regarding COVID-19 in the indigenous language of her area. This is very helpful because many of the elderly people do not speak Spanish. Manuel and Glenda are preparing meals to distribute to those in their community and Esteban and Yadira continue to supply the missionaries with donations for those in need.



Continued page 4



Good Neighbors



The Liskums and I met at Emanuel Lutheran Church in North Hollywood, California 59 years ago. We were neighbors living two blocks apart and we both had babies in the nursery. I had a precious, adopted, indigenous son and Beverly had a fair skinned, red headed daughter.

They were quite a contrast. Sandy and Curtis became the best of friends and shared many adventures together on their tricycles.

The family was famous for their handcrafted Christmas gifts delivered by their caroling children. We still have a decoupage hanging on our wall in our living room (pictured at the top), which was a gift from the Liskums.

Ken and Bev faithfully attended our Friday night prayer group. But when there was no more room at the



Pereau Inn the Liskum's home quickly became an extension of the group. Although distance separates and we live over 100 miles apart, Ken and Bev still faithfully support FFHM.

Charla Pereau
Founding Director



FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

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*Thank you,
Father, for
those who
care!*

June 2020

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**Give a gift in memory or honor of someone special.
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can be sent to the individual's family. Donate online
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- Deloa Grabill**
By Abundant Life Center
- Larry Rickards**
By Charlotte Maples
- Louis & Louise Gantner**
By Katherine and Stu Azouz
- Evelyn Kimber,
my loving grandma**
By Karen and Joel Andriola
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- Jane Takimoto**
By Michiko Kus
- Larry Reshetar**
By Larry and Constance Blunck

- Tom Knoll, husband
Jeff Knoll, son**
By Naomi Knoll
- John Moore**
By Virginia Souza

- IN HONOR OF:**
- Lillian Burnside's
95th birthday**
By Francine Bardizanian
- Bernice Linvog's
101st birthday**
*By Thomas and
Madonna Linvog*
- Rod Southard for his
expertise and help**
*By Ellen and Richard
Bernstein*
- Martha Schroth's
70th birthday**
By Kim and Jack Leighton
- Jake Riggio's 14th
birthday**
By Carmen Feliciano



An Update from Oaxaca continued:

HOW PEOPLE CAN BE PRAYING

It is hard to watch those around us suffer, but also wonderful to see the generous response of others. We are so thankful for your faithfulness in prayer for us.

Please continue to pray for:

- the staff - that we will grow in our love for one another and that we would cast our cares on the Lord and rest in the peace that passes all understanding.
- the children - this can be a very stressful time as they try to process and understand what is happening in the world.
- the people of Oaxaca - for unity in the Spirit as we meet not only the physical needs of others, but also the spiritual needs.

Laura Rodriguez
Oaxaca Mission Administrator

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