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HIS MINISTRY

RESCUE · **REACH** · **RESTORE**





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A letter from Our Director

Janelle Keller Executive Director

This fall I had the honor to be featured in an article by Jeff Smith for Moody Bible Institute. I wanted to share a portion of that article with you here.

As Keller observed firsthand on her initial mission trip to Baja, millions of children suffer under abject poverty and financial hardships in Mexico. More than 40 percent of families live at or below the country's poverty line of \$111 a month in rural communities and \$170 a month in urban centers.

By contrast, 11 percent of Americans live below the single-earner income level of \$12,880 a year, a figure which would be considered middle income in Mexico. Just 62 percent of Mexico's children reach high school, and only 42 percent earn high school diplomas, principally because of poverty and their family's need for additional income to survive.

Making matters worse, very few social safety nets exist for children in Mexico. A foster care system was just created, international adoption has been outlawed since the 1980s because of the influence of human traffickers, and in-country adoption is rare due to largely widespread poverty. Child abuse, abandonment, and neglect are prevalent issues in the country.

As a result, millions of children and teens suffer from a range of disorders – anxiety, depression, malnutrition, learning disabilities and debilitating trauma stemming from emotional, physical, and sexual abuse.

Six years ago, a 5-year-old girl named Maribel was admitted to the Baja children's home exhibiting most of these disorders. She had been sexually abused and severely neglected while living with an older couple posing as her parents.

"She looked like she had been living on the street," said Cheryl Trevor, Director of the school in Baja. "She was messy, dirty, distracted, couldn't sit still, and tore her papers, pencils, and books to pieces in class. She was so emotionally distressed, anxious, and lacked focus that she'd pull on her hair and color her hands and arms black up to her elbows with a marker. How to sit, listen or follow instructions was hard for her."

For the last six years, teachers and house mothers have patiently and loving invested in her emotional, spiritual, and academic development. As a result, Maribel has radically changed.

"She is now a fifth-grader who runs in our cross-country club, is in the color guard, and has absolutely figured out that she is valued and loved," Trevor said. "She's grown academically, is stable emotionally, and has great relationships with her friends and teachers. I'm so proud of her."

As you read the rest of this annual report, please know that every ministry mentioned represents a story of the miraculous life change that has occurred as God has brought someone from the darkness to the light. We are so grateful for the team of donors, staff, and volunteers that make this work possible. We each have the immense privilege of partnering with God is His transformational work!

1 Jamelle Kellen



Tijuana, Baja, MX

- Girls' Home
- Young Adult Apartments

Culiacán, Sinaloa, MX

- Breakfast Club
- Migrant Camp Outreach

Vicente Guerrero, Baja, MX

- Children's Home
- Pre-K to 9th grade School
- San Quintin Daycare
- Local Outreach
- Bible Institute
- Rancho de Cristo
- Rafa's House

Tlacolula, Oaxaca, MX

- Children's Home
- Pre-K to 6th grade School
- Mountain Missionaries
- Prison Ministry

RESCUE · **REACH** · **RESTORE**



Our three beautiful homes provide love, shelter, food, clothing, education, and Christian discipleship to over 150 children who have been abandoned, abused, or orphaned.

Our Baja Mission runs a daycare where children come to be cared for and discipled while their parents work in the area's agricultural fields. We have expanded our work there to include prayer meetings with some of the mothers. We also did some practical outreach projects at some of the kids' houses. We have repaired roofs, planted gardens, and other similar projects that allow us to show these families the love of God.

We have an apartment building in Tijuana where our young adults live while studying or working with the hopes that they will learn valuable skills that help them transition into adulthood. This year we witnessed the graduation of 1 of our students from a university in Tijuana.

Our schools in Oaxaca and Baja provide 140 children with an excellent education while teaching them to be followers of Jesus. This year we have worked diligently to complete the accreditation process for our school at the Baja Mission. This will allow us to ensure that our children are advancing in their education while at the same time we are able to control the curriculum and what they are being taught.





This year we made major renovations to the children's home at the Baja Mission. The little boys house (House 1) is completed and looks beautiful. The team is putting the finishing touches on the little girls' house (House 2). Ted Holmes and a team of volunteers got a significant start on the teenage boys' house (House 7). Our plan is to complete it within the following year so that almost half of the houses will be completely remodeled.

For years we have dreamed of having a cement path around the Oaxaca Mission that kids and staff could use to have a safe place to walk, run and ride their bikes. The path was completed this year and dedicated at the annual board meeting. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, each kid was gifted with a new bike, scooter or roller-skates.

Generous donations allow our children and youth to attend a Christian camp throughout the year. According to the Barna group, 94% of adult Christians made their decision to follow Christ under the age of 18. These opportunities are vital to planting and cultivating the seeds of the Gospel.

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me."

Reach the Lost

We support eight missionaries in the mountains of Oaxaca. These heroes of the faith live and serve in towns where there are people who have not heard about Jesus or where there is no existing church. They are frequently persecuted by those opposed to the Gospel, facing danger in the name of Jesus. They continue to push forward, knowing God has promised never to leave or forsake them. Our dream is to support a missionary in each of the eight regions of Oaxaca.

The local ministry teams in Baja, Oaxaca, and Sinaloa show Jesus' love to those in their communities by meeting practical needs and by being the hands and feet of Jesus.

The breakfast club in Sinaloa serves kids who live in the community surrounding our San Pedro home. This area is extremely poor, and many children can't attend school due to several factors. We are not only serving breakfast but now we are focusing on educating them as well.





Our outreach staff coordinated a conference for pastors in the mountains of Oaxaca. Over 100 pastors came from remote areas. Many of them are serving without resources and a network of support. Our hope is that through this time of teaching, training and fellowship these men and women will be able to return to their churches refreshed and encouraged.

This year we began a new partnership with USANA to build vegetable towers for families in need. These towers allow people to grow their own food on their property so that they have a sustainable solution to the lack of access to healthy food. This project also gives us an opportunity to connect and build relationships.

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16



Restore the Broken



Rancho de Cristo is our men's drug and alcohol rehab in Baja, where 20 men are coming to know the love of Jesus and His power to transform lives. In this 12-month program, men are submerged in a life centered around Christ through discipleship, community, and the study of God's word. They are trained with practical skills for future employment. We aim to remove obstacles preventing them from living a life free of addiction.

We operate Rafa's House as part of our Baja Mission. We started this ministry to provide men with their next step as they leave rehab centers and prisons. They live in community while seeking employment, gaining skills, and being restored to families. Since opening, we have remained at full capacity and have already seen and heard amazing stories of transformation coming out of this new ministry.

Pablo Mendez heads up our prison ministry in Oaxaca. Since Covid, Pablo is still one of the only people allowed to enter the prison. He visits the men's and psychiatric areas regularly, sharing the hope that can only be found in Jesus.

This year Mexico has officially launched a foster care program. As we minister and restore the lives of broken children, we recognize that family is God's design. We have already seen over 15 of our children be placed into foster care or adoption with our staff. We are encouraged that so many can find hope and healing in a more permanent home. God is using this to give us dreams for how He wants us to grow and transform the way we do ministry.

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Why I work for His Ministry

As of December 2022, I have been serving God full-time within the foundation for seven years.

Throughout these years, the Lord has allowed me to see miraculous things, such as the lives of children and teenagers being changed in radical ways and seeing them transformed through a new hope in Christ.

At the beginning of my time at the children's home, I witnessed this while taking care of the little ones showing them the heart of a mother. This awakened many deep feelings in me: living through good times and bad times and sometimes feeling all the emotions at the same time. But above all this, I have seen Jesus' hand backing me up with every step I take. For me, it is a huge privilege to be part of this calling and this ministry.

Now that God has put me in an area of leading people, I can encourage them to serve wholeheartedly with vision and passion. I feel fortunate to be able to guide those who take care of our little ones, knowing that each day we can see how God takes care of His ministry. My life will never be the same after having been a part of this foundation that rescues, restores, and reaches the littlest ones.



Adilene Deras Assistant Director, Oaxaca Mission

Why I support His Ministry ...

I feel called to donate to FFHM because I know the resources are put to good use to directly benefit the children at the different homes. Projects such as Give Different: Alternative Christmas, the soccer field in Baja or the track and roof in Oaxaca directly benefit the children who reside in these homes. I can see the results through the regular communications provided by the organization and smiles on the children's faces! It is important to me that that any donation is used for its intended purpose. I feel confident that FFHM is a good steward of the resources God has provided.

> Paul Post Supporter of His Ministry

Why I volunteer for His Ministry ...

Since 2002, my wife and I have facilitated bringing somewhere around 35 groups. Our experience has always been that the people who go on these missions uniformly experience increased fruit in their lives as they experience what can happen when they are placed in a setting that enables them to give God their undivided attention and service for one short week. Volunteers that serve at the missions become more active participants in their churches and seek to want to know Jesus's character through His Word, as well as His direction for their lives through service and a maturing faith. For many volunteers this may be the first time that they have had a dedicated and uninterrupted time of serving others alongside other like-minded believers. They experience how wonderful it feels to sacrificially set their own needs aside and carry out Jesus's instruction to serve others. Volunteers witness how FFHM uses the method of meeting the physical needs of people that then opens the door to their spiritual needs.

We have had on our teams many, many people that were experiencing all varieties of brokenness in their lives and have been restored and strengthened by Jesus through the mission experience at FFHM. As leaders it's always been a distinct pleasure to witness how team members experience the week at the mission. No matter whether they are new or long-time believers, we see how the week at the mission either begins, or jump starts, a process that moves them from simply having salvation, to truly becoming born-again disciples of Jesus Christ. For our Lord Jesus, there's no sweeter fruit than that.





Foundation for His Ministry

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Memorials

Jordon Van Leeuwen By Donn and Laura Van Leeuwen **Robert Lepley** By Peggy Owens-McNeely Mary Ellen Loker By Karen Pendergast Nan Wolcott By Richard and Dorothy Stinnett Abby-Jill Brauhn By Dina and Hans Lindemann Mary Coleman Mayo By Dina and Hans Lindemann Pastor Gerald A. Fosen By Bradley and Liz Miller Martha Cook By Agnes and Carl Viard John Wesley Reger, Jr. By Charise Montera Nancy D. Gerard, my wife By James Gerard Roger Koester, my husband By Barbara Koester **Pastor Joyce Okert** By Karen and William Pride

Honorariums

Hans and Nancy Benning By Richard and Karen Julian Corky Parrish's 93rd Birthday By Lynn Parrish Ruth Pedersen's 40th Birthday By Jack and Kim Leighton Liz Hook's 70th Birthday By Jack and Kim Leighton Heather Thomson's 80th Birthday By Jack and Kim Leighton The Marriage of Eve Quigley and Ron Cann By Jack and Kim Leighton Kim Leighton's 70th Birthday By The Leighton, Sheridan, Bohn & Eggie families Irene Bushfield's 101st Birthday By Jack and Kim Leighton Charla and Chuck Pereau By Lloyd & Vicki Vanderkwaak By Joel & Gona Veenstra By Tim & Yvonne Veenstra By Ed & Tamera Schrevr By Todd & Teresa Veenstra By John Veenstra

Chuck Pereau's 93rd Birthday By Steve and Miriam Woita Our Children – Waddell Family and Shaddoud Family By Don and Kathy Andersen My grandchildren – Soren, Will, Matt, Jon, Jerry, Julia By Sharon and Richard Benson Bill and AnaMarie Dwyer By Maria Dwyer Mrs. Johnson's sister By Dwight and Marilyn Johnson Our 9th Wedding Anniversary By Regis and Russ Welsh

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