

# MISSION NEWS

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



## Rafa's House

We have been praying and seeking God for a next step for the men who are coming out of Rancho de Cristo, our men's drug and alcohol rehab. Many of them still needed to live in community but also needed to take steps towards independence.

Here in the US office, we also started to receive letters from prisoners who had come to know Jesus, been a part of a discipleship program and were anticipating being released on parole. Each of them were Mexican citizens who would be deported to Mexico upon release.

We started to think about how we could combine these two needs and come up with a response. One of our Bible Institute graduates, Glenn Almeraz, approached us to remind us of some property we own that was not in use.

When we went to see it, we knew this would be the perfect solution.

Renovation was begun and we are anticipating being able to house between 8 - 10 men at a time. We have two staff members, who have come out of the Rancho and are ready to serve in this way.

The last piece was what to name this new ministry. After much discussion and prayer, Jill Smith (Director of Mexico Operations) mentioned naming this after one of our beloved staff members Rafael Lopez, who went by the name Rafa. He had come out of a life of addiction and prison and had been transformed by the power of the Gospel. Everything we would hope for in the lives of the men living in this house was exemplified in Rafa's life. He passed away two years ago and this felt like a beautiful way to pay tribute to him. When Jill looked up the meaning of the name "Rafael," she found it means "I have been healed." So that sealed the deal - we are looking forward to the dedication and beginning of ministry at Rafa's House.

**Janelle Keller**  
*Executive Director*

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## Finding Hope at the Border

Several times over the last year I have been reminded of Isaiah 55:8-9, *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,”* declares the Lord. *‘As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.’*”

Back in 2014, we felt God was calling us to expand our ministry in Sinaloa and start a children’s home. The leadership of the ministry took several trips to Sinaloa to meet with social services to discuss the need and to scope out land. We started raising money and through several miraculous stories, we got to the point of having enough money to purchase property.

We spent the next several years praying and asking God to show us the perfect piece of property to purchase. We got very close to buying several pieces of land, but they fell through for various reasons. I would often tell people how unusual it was that God had provided the money before providing the land. But we continued trusting that He would guide and direct us in His perfect timing.

We proceeded with building up our outreach ministry in the Sinaloa camps and built a Visitor

Center to accommodate work teams to help with the work being done there.

Then, on a trip to Sinaloa, we met with social services again to discuss the need for a children’s home. The Director showed us the new shelter they were building there on the same property as their offices and told us that if he was being honest, they do not have a need for another children’s home in the state and that we should focus our efforts on the border states. I left that meeting feeling confused and asking God what He was up to, sensing that He was moving us in a different direction.

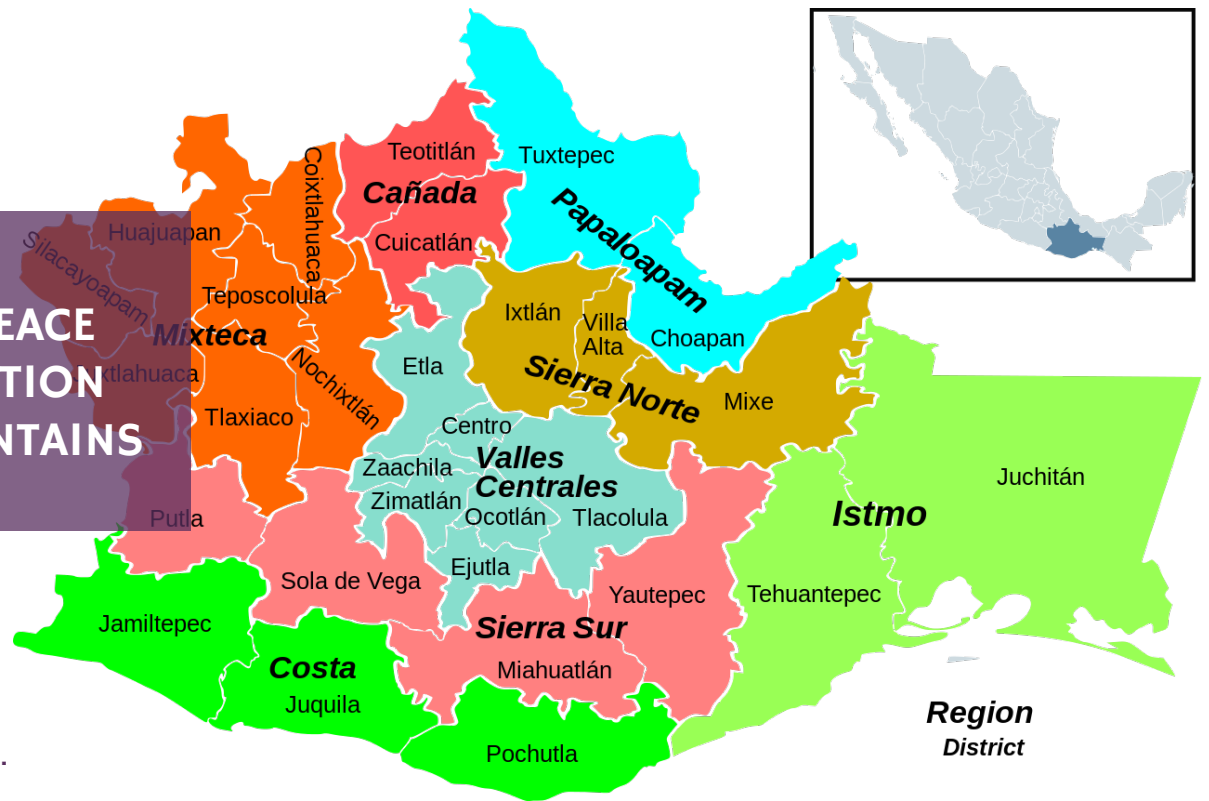
Since that meeting, God has continued to reveal to us the needs in Tijuana. Jill and I recently visited the government shelter that is supposed to be a temporary home for children until they are placed somewhere else. It was constructed to hold 180 children and during that visit we were told they are hundreds over capacity. Several people there have commented that there is a desperate need for another children’s home – especially if we are willing to take kids over the age of 12.

So please join us in praying that God will make His plans clear to us so that we can take steps of obedience. We also know that He will provide financially for everything He is calling us to do and are praying towards that end as well.



# BRINING PEACE AND SALVATION IN THE MOUNTAINS

Isaiah 52:7 How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those bringing good news.



Oaxaca is a beautiful state in Mexico with a rich heritage and a high concentration of indigenous people. There are 174 indigenous groups that each have their own language. And the spiritual need is great there. There are still villages that haven't heard about Jesus and do not have an existing church. There is much work to be done and we are trying to do our part to saturate Oaxaca with the Gospel.

Catholicism is the predominant religion there and it has been combined with ancestor worship and witchcraft. The result is that this is a spiritually dark and difficult place to serve. The missionaries and pastors serving in the mountains of Oaxaca all have stories of the challenges and encounters they have faced with spiritual warfare.

In each town, the priest is the top authority and anytime the Gospel is presented, they feel their power is being threatened. So there is much persecution of those who are Christians. Some are even still martyred for their faith.

Our dream is to have a missionary in each of the eight regions of Oaxaca so that we can be covering that state with the truth of Jesus Christ and the hope that can only be found in him. We currently are supporting five missionaries who are covering two of the regions - the Sierra Sur and the Mixteca region.

We are still prayerfully considering who we can support in the remaining six regions.

But I would love to introduce you to these missionaries we are supporting so that you can be keeping them in prayer as they serve in these spiritually dark areas. They need all the love, support and prayer they can get.

**MODESTO VELASCO:** Modesto and his wife, Eugenia, are serving in a very remote area called Amoltepec. To give you an idea of the state of the roads leading

into this area - it takes half an hour in a small plane or 12 hours in a bus. He is a graduate of our Bible Institute and decided to return to this area where he had grown up, to serve. Modesto was born with a congenital defect in his eyes that will eventually result in blindness. And yet that does not prevent him from walking for hours from town to town so he can minister in churches and in peoples' homes.



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## BRINING PEACE AND SALVATION IN THE MOUNTAINS



**MARIA VILLA PABLO:** Maria was born in Oaxaca, but then went with her mother to the Baja Peninsula to work in the fields. She became a Christian at the age of 12 through our child evangelism outreach there and then at 14 entered our Bible Institute.

When she graduated she felt called to go back to Oaxaca to serve in the town of Juxtlahuaca where she was born. Years later she continues to faithfully serve in the church that has been planted there and in the surrounding communities. Maria is gentle, loving and exemplifies Jesus in ways I long for.



**TERE TELLO:** Tere (second from left) became a Christian through the ministry of Maria in Juxtlahuaca. She then went on to our Bible Institute and

also returned to Oaxaca after graduating. She has faithfully served in her hometown of Yucuyi despite the many barriers that the town authorities have put in her path.

**MANUEL AND GLENDA CRUZ:** This beautiful family is serving in the small city of Huajuapán de León. They saw a need among many of the children living in their neighborhood



who weren't able to go to school because they didn't have the proper paperwork or enough money to buy uniforms so they started teaching them in their home. They have 40 children each day whom they feed and educate. Through their work with the children they have been able to build relationships with the parents and have now planted a church.





# Volunteers

*Hear, Lord, and be merciful to me; Lord, be my help. You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy. Psalm 30: 10-11*

Numerous widows and widowers in the grips of grief have spent a year or two at the Baja Mission. They have skills seldom found in those who are younger. They're depression survivors.

**Eleanor Dunn** (*top row, left*), former cook at Casa Romantica in San Clemente, CA, became our first cook at the Baja Mission and taught the girls to bake.

**Beloved Grace Roberts** (*top row, right*), a schoolteacher, tutored several struggling students, bringing them up to grade level.

In her grief, **Kathy** (*bottom row, left*) who became our second cook, embraced the children like they were her own.

In 1976, **Bill** (Preston-knock) married Kathy; It took two cooks to replace her.

**Inez Sorenson**, widowed. She tutored Jay and Brad Bertelsen and others. Jay became a teacher and Brad became a director of Intervarsity Christian Fellowship in Salt Lake City.

When **Harry Smith** (*bottom row, middle*) lost his wife, he found his home in a very small trailer known as the Holy Ghost Repair Shop. He repaired small appliances from toasters to hair dryers.

**Ann Mills**, also widowed, took her tour of duty in the kitchen and the sewing room.

At the loss of his wife Elaine, my cousin **Carl Shifflett** (*bottom row, right*) was sponsored by the Methodist Church in Lapeer, Michigan to serve at the Baja Mission. Carl was a shop teacher. He remodeled the parsonage with the help of our teen boys. In the evenings, he spent his time in the macadamia nut grove.

Pastor **David Johnson**, widowed, married **Domi**, our seamstress who worked in the Dorcas room and moved her back to Minnesota.

**Charla Pereau**  
*Founding Director*





# FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

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**April 2020**

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

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### IN MEMORY OF:

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*By Yasuko Yamauchi*

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*By Russ Mills*

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**Dora Seward &**

**Ralph Bagshaw**

*By Jack & Kim Leighton*

**Charles Nahas**

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**Martha Schroth's**

**70th Birthday**

*By Jack & Kim Leighton*

April 2020



### SUPPORT OF GENERAL FUND

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Any amount welcomed: <https://www.ffhm.org/support-financially>