

# MISSION NEWS

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



## Thanksgiving

Every November we celebrate the beautiful holiday of Thanksgiving, when we pause to thank God for the countless gifts in our lives. And we certainly have a lot to be thankful for at Foundation For His Ministry. I wanted to tell you about just a few of these things:

- We get to care for the most amazing children who find hope in Jesus and the love of a community in our homes.
- We have generous sponsors and donors who form an essential part of our team.

- We have talented, godly staff who give of their lives in a sacrificial way to love children, the communities surrounding our missions and the visitors who come to support our work.

- We were given the gift of a beautiful daycare in San Quintin, Baja where we are caring for and discipling 120 children every day.

- Communities in the mountains of Oaxaca with no existing church are able to hear the Gospel message because of the tireless work of the missionaries we support there.

- Our TJ House is full of university students from both Baja and Oaxaca who are being given the amazing opportunity to break the cycle of poverty in their families through education.

There are so many other things I could share. God is good and faithful, and we are filled with gratitude for all of His blessings.

Janelle Keller  
*Executive Director*

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# Celebrating our New Baja Administrator



**O**ctober 1, 2019. Hands were laid upon me as I was being introduced and blessed as the new Administrator of the Baja mission. I was listening to the prayers of encouragement and was in awe of how God could take a shy 12 year old girl from suburban Minnesota and spend close to thirty years equipping her for such a time as this.

When I arrived at the mission in 1991, it was my first time leaving the United States or being on an airplane. My parents thought it would be beneficial for my brother and me to gain a world perspective by serving at Foundation for His Ministry. During my tour of the mission, there was no doubt where I would be spending my time. Having served in my church nursery, I was quickly developing a passion for babies and toddlers so the Daycare and Cuna were a perfect fit. Little was I aware that it was to be God's plan for my life.

At the end of that first month long visit, my family was already planning the next trip which evolved into seven years of visits, eventually lasting three months at a time. With each return to Minnesota, part of my heart stayed in Mexico. I vowed one day move to Mexico and dedicate my life to serving the children at FFHM.

As my teenage years drew to a close, I heeded the world call: the call to pursue the American Dream, get a good job, work hard, make money, and travel the globe. I often held several jobs at a time to earn more money to have more things and go more places.

I repeated this process over and over, only to become emptier and emptier. Little by little, the God I claimed to serve was being pushed to the periphery and replaced by false idols. All the time I was seeking to better my life, I was actually losing it.

God finally had me right where He wanted me and in that moment, He created the opportunity for me to return to Mexico in 2010 by way of a Mission Trip offered by my church. My heart was bursting at the seams. I had not been to Mexico for 12 years and what a reunion it was! Because of my first love and the commitment I had made to the little ones I was now ready and reminded of God's purpose for my life. Eventually, I sold my house and belongings and made the permanent transition to Mexico.

As a Supervisor in the Cuna, I was able to spend my time with the babies loving them, nurturing them, and sharing the love of Jesus with them. But I was also able to develop relational and management skills. The smallest of babies lived with me until they were adopted or reunited with family members. I learned how to use the space left in my heart by a departing child to welcome the next one in need of care.

But God continually chooses to stretch us just when we are feeling comfortable; so the next challenge was being asked to direct the new San Quintin daycare-unchartered territory for the mission. Starting with six children and increasing to 120 within a few short months was overwhelming. There were times when I felt like I was on an island miles away from the support of the mission, but God was present and He constantly reminded me whom I was serving. The beautiful brown eyes I greeted each day, along with the families who entrusted their little ones to us, was an opportunity to share the love of Jesus and be a catalyst to creating a God-centered community. It was walking through this chapter that had me recognize God will always equip those He has called.

And it is with that knowledge that I graciously accept the privilege of leading the Baja Mission as Administrator. I am surrounded by an amazing team of servant leaders and am excited to see how God will use us to continue His work in Baja.

**Sara Peterson**

*Baja Mission Administrator*



# What a Difference a Decade Makes



**T**en years ago, Ricardo and I made a decision that would drastically change the course of our lives. We went to visit the children's home in Oaxaca, where the most pressing need at the time was house parents for the teenage boys house.

Janelle, the administrator at the time, asked if we would try it out. We agreed, and from that moment on we were parents. Our initial visit was only supposed to be three months, but when all ten teenagers asked us, or inquired of other staff members if we were going to stay longer, we took it as a clear message from God, that we were to stay in Oaxaca indefinitely.

For the next two and a half years, we worked to break down their barriers. We were on the receiving end of their disrespect, misdirected anger, misbehavior at school, and low grade point averages. We prayed with them and for them. We helped them with school projects, took them to the movies, and grew to love them as our own children.



We worked hard to create a family for each of them. We watched them try new things- bands, worship team, playing soccer, and the every day things most families do.

They went to ultrasounds for our first biological baby, and were there when our Micah came home from the hospital.

When our time in Oaxaca came to a close, we had to move on from the Oaxaca Mission. But we did not move on from our boys. Two of our boys moved to Baja with us, and lived in our home. Little by little over the years, more and more of them have drawn nearer to us.



# What a Difference a Decade Makes



They have grown up before our very eyes. Two of them are married with families of their own. Two have graduated from college. Four are enrolled in university and living with us at the TJ House.

For the last ten years, we have seen the hand of God work in their lives, bringing healing and restoration to their unimaginable childhood losses. We have been hurt and disappointed by less than great decisions they have made. We have watched them struggle and suffer self inflicted consequence to life's challenges and growing up. But it has been a privilege to watch them change and grow. We have celebrated graduations, weddings, and babies.

We answer the hard questions about the goodness of God, what they want out of life, and how to restore relationships. And considering it all, Ricardo

and I have loved and cherished each moment we spend with them. They are overcomers, and we are blessed to have been a little part of it!



We are so grateful for Foundation For His Ministry's role in forming our family. These young men's lives will forever be changed. Our life is forever changed. Generations to come are forever changed when we choose to really love those around us.

**Andrea Bolanos**  
*TJ House Supervisor.*





# From Bowling Alley to Board Member



**A**lmost 50 years ago, Dr. Tom and Jan Higgins hosted a prayer group in Montebello, California. Our daughter, Andrea, and Pastor Bill Dwyer were part of this prayer group and its charismatic renewal.

The next time I heard from Pastor Bill, he and his congregation were leasing the gym at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Sherman Oaks, CA. God then led him and his congregation to purchase a bowling alley in Reseda, California. The bowling alley lanes became the lanes for winning souls for Christ!

The next time I saw Pastor Bill was on the roof of the Baja Mission. He was part of a roofing crew serving there. With missions forever on his heart, Pastor Bill was then led to the mountains of Oaxaca. He served there with Dr. Avitia and Roberto Munoz Flores as they hosted several medical groups in the remote areas.

On one such trip, Pastor Leland Lance, his wife Marsha, and I were part of the team to Juxtlahuaca, Oaxaca, where everything went wrong. The mission team from Valdosta, Georgia, were delayed by a volcanic eruption.

And to further complicate the mission, I had my second heart attack in this most remote region.

Marsha spent a sleepless night praying for me. At dawn, Pastor Bill and Dr. Avitia were called. They immediately went to the local hospital looking for oxygen. There was none. Then they went to pharmacy after pharmacy – still no oxygen.

They never gave up hope and stopped in to yet another pharmacy. The owner said, *"I do have something in the back, but I'm not sure what it is. I have never opened the box."*

Pastor Bill and the doctor opened the box, and praise God - it contained a brand new oxygen tank! His miracles never cease! There was enough oxygen to get me from the village into Oaxaca, where I spent the night in the hospital before continuing home to Orange County, CA.

Pastor Bill Dwyer has served on our FFHM Board for two years and has now agreed to serve as our new Chairman. We thank God for Matt Juarez who recently served. Matt is stepping down in order to dedicate himself to his family and teenage children.

We welcome Pastor Bill as Chairman and are so grateful to him for his continued service to our Ministry.

**Charla Pereau**  
*Founding Director*



## Foundation for His Ministry

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November 2019

If you no longer wish to receive  
our newsletter, simply return your  
address label in the enclosed envelope,  
or email us at: [info@ffhm.org](mailto:info@ffhm.org)

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

Give a gift in memory or honor of someone special. The individual's name will be mentioned below.  
A card can be sent to the individual's family. Donate online [www.ffhm.org](http://www.ffhm.org) or call Linda at (949) 492-2200.

### IN MEMORY OF:

**Van McWhirter, Jr.**

*By Richard McWhirter*

**Ruth Bakke**

*By Richard Benson*

**Sam Parsons**

**Mack McCartney** (brother of Christina Emerson)

*By Pat Durkin*

**Al Sonnenfeld**

*By Yasuko Yamauchi*

**Corrine Ehrick-My mommy**

*By Nancy Bryan*

**Claudia Switzer**

*By Christeen Egger*

**My Grandmother, Great Aunt**

**& Uncle for their devotion to FFHM**

**Ms. Grace Roberts**

**& Mr. Herb Wright**

*By Brian Dunn*

**Dorothy Shaleen**

*By Debra Rustad*

**Mrs. Tenneson**

*By Debra Rustad*

**Lena Visser**

*By Chuck & Charla Pereau*

*By Gerrit & Catharina Van Klei'*

*By Walter Pearson*

**Don Fuente**

*By Kevin & Karen Lovelette*

**Beverly Tenneson**

*By Keith & Lynette Kedrowski*

**Shirley Varney**

*By Charlene Tingley*

**Chris Egger**

*By Carla Young*

*By Martha Coleman-Smith*

**Sharon Kujawa, Mother of Kelly Meyer**

*By Duane & Faye Weeks*

**Genevieve Carpita** (wife of Dan Carpita)

*By Duane & Faye Weeks*

**Chester & Edna Kowalewski**

*By Steven Carroll*

**Brenda Harshbarger, Daughter-in-law of LouAnn DeLong**

*By Duane & Faye Weeks*

**Karla Phillips**

*By Karen Olden*

**Chuck & Phyllis Mills**

*By Russ Mills*

**Jane Collins**

*By Walter Pearson*

**Rod Johnson**

*By Carol Johnson*

**Jeffrey Geboy**

*By Mom & Dad*

**Jay Harris**

*By Michiko Kus*

**John Henrichs**

*By Anita Henrichs*

**Dawn Shaleen**

**Gary & Diane Tenneson**

*By Debra Rustad*

**Van Winkle**

*By Ernest Satren*

### IN HONOR OF:

**Chuck & Charla's 70th**

**Wedding Anniversary**

*By Thomas & Gloria Frederick*

*By Gordon Keiser*

*By Gail Isaac*

**Walter Kemp's 90th Birthday**

*By Mr. Walter Kemp*

**The Marriage of Cliff Heidel &**

**Cindy Peckenpaugh**

*By Jack & Kim Leighton*

**Bob & Marie Southard Family**

*By Jim Gerard*

**Bob & Judy Lepley's**

**36th wedding anniversary**

*By Andrew Hiles*

**Bob Hayden**

*By James Green*

**Clarie Johnson's 97th Birthday**

*By her three sons: Al, Kent & Bob*

**Minerva Trujillo**

*By Marla Bentien*

*By Stephen & Tanya Keech*

### ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

This Christmas, you have  
the opportunity to share hope  
with our neighbors in Mexico.

*Please see the enclosed flyer  
for more information.*

November 2019