
NCYM MISSIONS NEWSLETTER

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Editor: Mary Leonhard Cromer 700 Ellington Drive, Winston-Salem, NC 27104

336-766-9804

From the Chair

Pat Cheadle

336-765-0900

MEXICO MISSION NEEDS A VAN!!!!

One of the good things about the VBS in Mexico was having Mike Wall and Kevin Smitherman along to help with all the work that was done and another was to give a good report on the use of Jorge's van. Kevin said that Jorge's van is about 20 years old and we cannot count on it much longer. As we reported some time back, our Dodge van that we took down there was stolen. It would have had to be replaced soon anyway, but when Jorge bought a smaller van, he volunteered to use his for the Mission use until we could get another. He has done that, but we need to get another 15 passenger van to take down there as soon as possible.

We must have one that is at least five years old and the committee would like to ask if any of our meetings have a van that they would like to sell. Or if anyone knows of a good van – 5 years old – that we could buy.

We appreciate Jorge's using his own, but we need to take a larger and a newer one now. If you know of one, please contact someone on the missions committee or me at 336-765-0900.

We also are asking that you tell your USFW and missions committees at your meeting that we need their help to find a van and help pay for it. Any help that anyone can give us would be greatly appreciated.

A New Vision?

Below are reports from Kevin Smitherman and Mike Wall, two who went to Mexico this year for VBS. Read these reports. Is it possible that through these two God is giving North Carolina Yearly Meeting a new vision for the work in Mexico?

Report from Kevin Smitherman

(Edited)

I was so blessed this year to get to go with 9 others to Matamoros and help with Bible School. Our team name was Team Fusion. This fit well because we were trying to reconnect with the people there because the past two years the Bible school had been cut short because of weather and other problems.

This year we arrived in Mexico on Friday, July 13th, got our sleeping area prepared, and then went around to meet people of the village.

On Saturday we were able to go to the beach along with some of the families from the village. This was fun and a way to connect with the kids.

On Sunday we attended service along with 9 adults and 25 kids from the village. Sunday afternoon we traveled into Brownsville, Texas for supplies.

Monday through Friday was busy with Bible school and work at the village church. Each morning there were Bible school lessons, crafts, lunch, and on two days some recreation time. We started with around 30 kids on Monday and finished with around 65 on Friday.

In the afternoons we did repairs to the church. We added a sink and repaired plumbing in restrooms. We built two new tables for the craft area, removed a post from the center of the sanctuary and added a bench. All the time we were making repairs we had to deal with some very uncomfortable heat and rain.

Each evening we had the task of getting supplies for the next day, which required a trip to Wal-Mart. At night our team would come together for devotions. But the great thing is that with all the work, our team never complained, plus had time to connect with some of the kids.

After heavy rain on Tuesday and Wednesday we were challenged to fix some way for the people to get into the church without having to walk through water and mud. With God's blessing we were able to remove some of the mud and water and build a bridge at the entrance to the church. We had a good week, but at the end of the week I was able to look around the village and see that there is more that could be done, mostly outside our church walls. One of our mottos that week was, "when you are confronted with a problem just build a bridge and get over it." There are some challenges and many needs in Mexico. With God's help, I believe that we can build bridges and see great works happen there.

*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?
1 John 3:17*

Mexico as Seen by Mike Wall (Edited)

I traveled to Matamoros with Kevin Smitherman and 8 young adults from our Yearly Meeting on July 13.

We held Bible School, and did some construction things to help the church at the Village of Esperanza Reforma. Near the end of our trip, after three days of heavy rain and water and mud and sewage everywhere, I REALLY looked at the surroundings. I saw clothes hanging on a clothesline in one of the family's yard, and wondered HOW could they get to them in the mud to bring them into the house?

I thought, "This ministry is OUR ministry and we in NCYM ought to change this." In the 1800s, in the U.S., the church was the heart of the community. Social events revolved around the church. That has changed in our U.S. society today, but it could easily become a reality in the Village of Esperanza Reforma.

I told Kevin we should stop patching, and start TRANSFORMING! We've been going to Mexico for a long time, fixing leaks, patching

roofs, putting in a sink, making repairs and doing the things that we have done. But what we SHOULD be doing is changing that entire community.

I think I'll never forget Kevin's response: "We certainly are working on the wrong side of the wall." Let's get outside the walls that surround that church building.

A bookmark is available to keep you reminded about the work in Mexico. Contact a committee member to obtain bookmarks for the members of your Meeting.

Interns Send Thank Yous

One program within North Carolina Yearly Meeting that the Missions Committee helps to support is the Intern Program. We have received many, many thank you notes from our interns. Below are a few of the lines taken from their notes:

"Thank you for your support this year. We could not have done it alone, as Jesus knows ... I believe we made a big difference in the kids' lives ... now they can go into this new school year with a great friend that you and I love."

"I have grown spiritually and been seeking God's will for my life."

"The summer was absolutely amazing."

"I have done many internships and God has taught me such great things through working for Christ."

"Thank you for supporting us ... the money you gave to the intern program is greatly appreciated."

"While here I have been able to deepen my relationship with Christ as well as minister to and build relationships with the community."

"Many lives were impacted and changed and you helped make that possible!"

As the last quote states, many lives are impacted through the Intern Program – those who are served, as well as those who are serving.