

Mission to the Children

News Update

Website: www.missiontothechildren.org

Email: info@missiontothechildren.org

February, 2019

PASTOR'S CORNER

Micah 5:2, 4 (NIV) "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times...He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth."

Chances are that Christmas is no longer a decorative feature in your house. The presents and their wrapping have found a home. Furniture and seasonal decorations occupy the spaces where the Christmas tree and Nativity scene once were. With spring on the distant horizon, Christmas has faded into the background. While our Nativity scenes and Christmas decorations may have left our homes, Christmas' joys never go away.

Long after Luke 2's memorable words came to pass, we continue to celebrate Christmas' joys because of who that newly born baby is. Micah's prophecy in chapter 5 of his book shows us what lasting joys we have from the Christ-child. He was born in Bethlehem to assure us that God will always come through on his promises. Jesus will shepherd his children with the unstoppable strength of the LORD with the result that those who are his may live in eternal security.

Micah's two-fold prophecy is only the beginning of a greater joy that would later come. That joy is none other than the perfect life, the

innocent death, and the bodily resurrection of the Christ-child grown up. It is because of what the Christ-child did after his birth in Bethlehem to prove that he is the Savior of all nations that Christian continues to celebrate long after the Christmas season. For they know that Jesus will follow through on his promise of eternally shepherding his people with the strength that he has as true God. And as he does so, he will also lift up the brokenhearted with the gracious forgiveness he won for us on the cross. As you prepare for spring's distant coming, let your hearts reside in Christmas' lasting joy of your Savior.

Pastor Timothy Patoka

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

May God richly bless you in 2019!

How many times did you put that into your Christmas or New Year's greetings? I did in mine, realizing that there would be more blessings than I could count and praying that I would recognize them as they came flowing in. As I write this, I am already enumerating what has blessed the Mission in just three weeks!

Early in January seven young men and women from Martin Luther College came to Tucson and did a project with the office manager and myself---an awesome task. They cleaned out our storage shed, brushing off the dust of the ages!!! The young men carried unneeded heavy objects to the dumpster along with lots of dusty old boxes. The women unloaded boxes from upper shelves, repacked items as needed, sorted and arranged boxes filled with all sorts of items and labeled

them. The men loaded the seats into the van. They worked non-stop for almost three hours. We then got a chance to really know them over and “In ‘N’ Out Burger.” What a blessing; and we look forward to the next group of students!!

This morning Karen and I will load the van for the volunteers who heading to Sonora for three days this weekend. Some of the blessings we are loading are quilts; knit caps, scarves and mittens; vitamins for the children and baby clothes---all donated by you, our faithful lay volunteers! We cannot say thank you too often.

Karen and I so enjoyed the Christmas cards and well wishes from so many of you---thank you! Your monetary donations have kept us solvent for another year and for this we praise the Lord. Life is uncertain---the future of the Mission is uncertain---but God’s blessings ARE CERTAIN! So, may God richly bless you in 2019!!!

President Ruth Schaller

Volunteer’s Report:

As we poured from the Mission to the Children van for the posada in the small village of San Jose, a little girl approached me. She was about ten years old with pretty eyes, smiling and speaking Spanish. In my broken Spanish I attempted to explain that I spoke and understood very little of her language. Undeterred, she continued talking and I continued to not understand. So when I shook my head no and threw up my arms in frustration her smile only grew. She got down on her knees and began to write the words in the dirt with her finger. It happened that I could understand some of the written Spanish words. And so we had our conversation, limited but connected. I learned her name to be Olivia.

In December, Missionary Kramer, Pastor Alejandro from Altar and three volunteers made the journey to 10 small villages and towns in the

Mexican state of Sonora for the annual posada. We were welcomed warmly by the children and families.

In each town our Pastor or Missionary shared the Christmas story. There was singing of Christmas songs with much participation from the children. Piñatas scattered candy for the little ones, Christmas gifts, each with the child’s name on a tag were distributed. Cupcakes, drinks or meals were enjoyed by all.

In several places families took us into their homes for meals. We were their guests and they treated us with tamales, tacos, frijoles, fried fish, fresh vegetables, rice, pasta salads, tortillas, desserts and drinks. It was clear by their smiles and attentiveness that they enjoyed serving us as much as we enjoyed their hospitality.

In each of these villages and towns there is a story to be told. In Tubutama the young girl wanted me to meet her sister. The two small boys in La Reforma – one asked to keep the paper the Christmas song was printed on and the other watched and sang as I pointed to the words. A little girl in Llano Blanco taught me how to correctly say “I speak very little Spanish.” In La Sangre several boys insisted on sharing their piñata candy with me.

Then there was the conversation I had with a woman who spoke perfect English. She told me how happy they were that Mission to the Children was there. She told me how thankful they were for all that we do for them. Her family home had been damaged during a political campaign for the town governor (mayor). She told me how badly the town was divided. And she told me how our presence brought the town together, in one place joined together in playing, singing and celebrating the birth of Christ.

Mission to the Children needs volunteers. For those who speak Spanish the need is great. For those who don’t speak the language there

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is still much work for you to do. The desire to serve God is all that is required. And through the power of the Holy Spirit the message of salvation gets through whether you can speak the language or not. As you pray for guidance remember also the words from a hymn: "Take the task He gives you gladly, Let His work your pleasure be, Answer gladly when He calleth, "Here am I; send me, send me."

Debra Rader

Trip Report: Posada Tour December 13-16, 2018

John Kramer, Debbie Rader, Jeff Hauser, Lori Hauser did this trip.

We began grouping up for the trip on Thursday the 13th of December. My flight came in the night before and Karen arranged for a stay for me at the Doubletree.

Karen and I loaded the last of the necessary things in the already full van on Thursday afternoon, then Debbie and I departed to meet up with Lori and Jeff at Three Points at about 2pm.

At the border the Border Patrol agents wanted to rip all the stuff out of the van and check everything for firearms, they were softened by our innocent looks and let us pass without much of an inspection.

Across the border the Mexican authorities simply took us for \$400.00 US and let us go. We made a drop at the Sasabe church and also paid the store. As the sky was darkening in the late afternoon we headed into the desert towards Tubutama for our first Posada. The Posada happened without a glitch yet all in the dark. And we made it

to Atil and the parsonage for the night.

The next day began with a lazy start and we made it to Altar about noon after dropping a frozen turkey off at Graciela's. We picked up Pastor Alejandro and took care of a few small items and headed for our first Posada at San José at 3:00pm. The second and third Posadas all came off well with Pastor Alejandro conducting the service.

Each town fed us and we were well stuffed after the third event. Making it back to Altar to drop off Pastor Alejandro we continued to Atil for the night.

All of us volunteers pitched in where necessary while allowing the local volunteers to run the schedule for the Posadas as they had planned.



The next morning I conducted the Posada at 10:00am and then we went to meet Luz María and Pastor Alejandro for the three posadas of the afternoon.

Llano Blanco at 1:00pm, 3:00pm at Dieciséis de Septiembre and 5:00pm at Altar. They all went smoothly as can be seen from the video I sent out. We ate at Luz's and made it home after that. Jeff and Lori Hauser headed back to the U.S. after the first posada and stopped in

Saric on the way to drop off the presents for the following day.

On Sunday I conducted the two Posadas beginning in La Reforma at 10:00am, then Saric at 1:00pm.



Fidel did a very nice job in Saric and with the organization. Fidel conducted the Cerro Prieto Posada the following day on Monday with the service sheets we left him. All was handled very nicely and all the posadas were well attended. 1,400 presents were each presented to a young person by name. It's easily estimated we shared the message of Jesus with over 2,000 people.

It was a blessing to be involved and Debbie says she's going again! I made it home by commercial flight on Monday the 17th.

Posada Tour on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0Y4Cr-62vs>

John Kramer



SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Seems unlikely to be thinking about purchasing school supplies in February, but I am making an extra push this year to get them to us by July 1st.

Shortly after that in July, we are having some students coming to help with a project, and packing school supplies would be ideal. Soooo....if you are inclined to send us school supplies again this year, please keep your eyes open for ads that might allow for advance purchases.

With some areas having school year round, some bargains might pop up now and then. Last year we packed 1,400 school bags, so we are anticipating at least that number or higher again this year. Mexico starts school at age 13 and we give supplies up through high school.

Also, Walmart or Target gift cards would help us with school supplies too, if you wish to go that route.

Thank you for any and all help!!!!

Ruth Schaller, President