

# Mission to the Children

## News Update

Website: [www.missiontothechildren.org](http://www.missiontothechildren.org)

Email: [info@missiontothechildren.org](mailto:info@missiontothechildren.org)

July, 2019

---

### PASTOR'S CORNER

#### **Unique Gifts, United Purpose**

*We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. (Romans 12:6a, EHV)*

I have the privilege of serving at Grace Lutheran Church in Tucson, AZ. We hosted a Vacation Bible School in the end of June called **Set Sail With The Son!** It featured a sailboat theme and used the various parts of a sailboat to illustrate various lessons from God's Word for the children.

We learned in one of our lessons how God equips Christians with unique gifts. Some Christians are equipped with time so they can volunteer and pray for others. Some Christians are equipped with skills which allow them to serve in ways others could only dream of. Some Christians are equipped with treasures so they can show their thanks to God with financial support.

Although each Christian is uniquely gifted, they have a united purpose – to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Sometimes we share that good news with the lost so that sin-darkened souls may finally see God's light. Other times we share that good news with the found so that Christians may remain rooted in their faith and withstand the

assaults of Satan, the world, and our sinful nature.

As the children learned at Grace's Vacation Bible School, if any one part of a sailboat is missing, then the boat is going to have trouble. Each part of a sailboat is needed if it is to reach its destination. In the same way, Christians would not be able to carry out their united purpose if any one gift was lacking. Each Christian's unique gift is helpful to carry out our united purpose of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

God has also equipped you with your unique gift so that you may join in our united purpose. But no matter how you decide to do that, whether it's through *Mission to the Children* or your local church home, let it always be with an attitude of thanksgiving. To God be the glory for all the ways we use our unique gifts to spread his gospel promises.

**Pastor Tim Patoka**

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer is upon us!! The dry desert heat is particularly dangerous, and the area we are blessed to serve has homes with no air conditioning. There is not even a cool mall to go to when it is unbearable. Yet, I am pleased to tell

you that as I write this, Pastor Timothy Flunker and three volunteer students are in Northern Sonora for five days doing VBS in five villages. Almost all of this work is conducted outdoors! The children and parents are so excited each year for this event to occur. God continues to bless the mission in incredible ways!

School supplies are being packed and some have gone down with the student group. If you have not had a chance to get yours to us yet, please know that we collect all year round. This gives me a head start when the date is getting close. You can send them to me, Ruth Schaller; 3829 W. Cetus St; Tucson, AZ 85742-5016. We also use Walmart gift cards for our purchases.

Thank you so much to those who have contributed their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Mission to the Children. So far in 2019 we have received \$897.

As many of you know, on March 1 my son Jonathan died from kidney failure secondary to medication. He was 48. Six weeks later my husband, Rev. Loren Schaller, died from complications following surgery for a badly fractured femur. Why do I mention this again? Because my son and husband were redeemed children of God through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Many in this world are not aware yet of this gracious gift from God. Sharing this blessing of eternal life is the reason Mission to the Children exists and, through your donations, continues to spread the Word. May many of those we serve be with us in Heaven!!!

**Ruth Schaller, President**

## *TRIP REPORT for May/June*

Thursday, May 30 I arrived in Tucson at the airport at midnight and Uber'd it over to the Hotel. The next morning, Karen picked me up and after getting the van at Grace Lutheran Church I headed for Sonora, Mexico. Other volunteers couldn't travel with me this weekend, so I crossed the border solo and stopped at our Church in Sasabe.

Monica, our head volunteer in Sasabe, was full of information. She shared information about church services, hoped Pastor Alejandro could come on a Sunday, and who in the community desired confirmation classes, etc. After catching up I continued to Altar about 2 hours driving time and met Pastor Alejandro for dinner.

Pastor Alejandro caught me up on his ministry plans and shared phone pictures of youth classes and baptisms in Altar. I transferred donated funds sufficient for him to buy a new (used) car as his plans included more trips to Sasabe and to follow up on opportunities in Caborca, 30 minutes away. His old car hasn't been working reliably and it was time to upgrade his wheels. I retired to our house in Atil for the evening.



# Mission to the Children

## News Update

Website: [www.missiontothechildren.org](http://www.missiontothechildren.org)

Email: [info@missiontothechildren.org](mailto:info@missiontothechildren.org)

July, 2019

The next morning at 9:00am I conducted Adult and Children's lessons in Atil, next Tubutama and then La Reforma and shared humanitarian aid in each place. There were 110 adults and 75 children present between the three villages. After finishing in La Reforma at 3:00pm I traveled an hour to Sasabe.



On the road I encountered a couple holding a young baby with a pickup truck broke down due to a bad fuel pump. It was very hot, something over 110 degrees. The baby was suffering without sufficient shade or water. I drove them to Sasabe and found out they were relatives of some of our church members. Of course, I shared an invitation to attend our church service the next day.

Upon arrival in Sasabe I conducted a baptismal church service with 35 people in attendance. It was very

beautiful with everyone dressed up for the event and the young baby entering God's kingdom in an act of the Holy Spirit. Water and Word and God gives all he promises, forgiveness of sins, freedom from the devil and life eternal. All together that means the gift of faith.



At 5:00pm, with the service, cake and all the many photos finished I traveled two hours back to Altar to have dinner with Pastor Alejandro. If he had a car, he would have performed the baptism I just finished doing. But schedules and driving time didn't permit it without his own car and so as the visiting



missionary it was necessary for me to do it. What a privilege to share faith as an instrument of the Holy Spirit!

After overnighting in Atil again I traveled two hours the next morning to perform the 11:00am church service in Sasabe. About 42 people were in attendance and we also celebrated the Lord's supper. I shared a message of God's grace which comes to us through faith.

At about 2:00pm I drove to Tucson and caught a 7:00pm flight home. What a wonderful trip into Sonora!

**By John Kramer**