

Mission to the Children

News Update

Website: www.missiontothechildren.org

Email: info@missiontothechildren.org

October, 2020

PASTOR'S CORNER

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7)

I am guessing that you are quite familiar with Philippians 4:7. As a pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Tucson, AZ, it is my custom, as many other WELS pastors, to speak these words to the congregation after preaching my sermon. And what fitting words they are! After delving into the depths of God's Word and likely hearing once again how it is Christ who alone brings us peace with our Almighty Lord, we continue the rest of our week in that same peace.

However, our weeks may not feel so peaceful. As schools reopen, they do so with precautionary measures that have outworn their welcome and are filled with stress as teachers and students prepare for the fallback plan of distance learning. We are not able to gather with our friends and families as we would like and we are suffering from that. Especially here in Tucson, AZ, there are additional concerns regarding the border with Mexico that increasingly separates close families, disrupts trade and travel,

and impedes MttC's efforts to show the love of Christ to those in northern Sonora.

While our weeks may not feel so peaceful, that is not the case with our hearts and minds. Whether it is virtually, socially distanced, or muffled by a face covering, we get to hear about God's peace given to us through Christ on a weekly basis. Jesus has paid the price for our sins! We are declared righteous in God's sight! Our resultant lives are driven by thanks, not guilt or obligation, to our Lord! We have peace, even when the world is so lacking in it!

No matter what happens with the coronavirus, our societal concerns, or anything else, our peace from God will never fail. Instead, it guards our hearts and minds with the assurance of who Christ is, what he has done, and what he promises is ours both now and forevermore. Amen.

And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.

By Pastor Tim Patoka

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The newspaper headlines read: "Crackdown on the Mexican border." With many requests for prayers, Jeff and Lori Hauser and I determined to get desperately needed school supplies to as many of our villages as we could. On Thursday, August 27th, we loaded a van with whatever school supplies we had received, bags of quilts and some sweaters. After a departing prayer, we left at 10 a.m. with pre-arranged plans to meet Pastor Alejandro from Altar at our Sasabe Church, just across the border about a mile. He would then take part of what we brought for the Altar area, leaving some for the Sasabe area. As we drove, I continued to ask the Lord for a facilitated crossing. God more than answered prayers!! Guards on the American side walked toward us, saw the MttC logo on the van, smiled and waved to us! When we told the Mexican guard we had school supplies, he waved us through, saving us a potentially large tariff!!! (I already had my speech prepared in Spanish about how these were gifts sent to us from people all over the U.S. and had my receipts at hand to show for the supplies we had purchased at Walmart with gift cards!!!)

Seven hours later, after a yet extremely hot day, we returned home safe and sound, with grateful hearts for the protection of our lives. (The cartels are again active and battling each other in the area we serve.) We will attempt getting more

supplies across the border in about another month. If you are so inclined, we need a whole lot more as one vanload served only a small and limited area. We usually plan on supplies for about 1200 children but could not acquire lists this year like we usually do. We are tax exempt at Walmart. We have also found that Visa gift cards allow us to take advantage of particularly good sales at grocery stores, pharmacies and dollar stores. Thank you for your continued prayers, love for, and support of this vital mission.

Please offer special prayers for the people of Mexico who are suffering COVID-19 also, have little medical care, have fewer jobs, concerns about the cartels, and are facing great poverty. They miss the visits by John Kramer and Pastor Alejandro and often depend on us for basic food items. They continue to trust in the Lord and attend services in Altar with social distancing. Pastor Alejandro showed us some pictures of the services and audio of their singing. Our hope is in the Lord!!!

By Ruth Schaller

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SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Just want to say a great big thankyou to all of you who helped us with the school supplies. They were so needed for the children who also must learn from home. Here are a couple of pictures of children receiving their school supplies.



Another big thank you to Jeff and Lori Hauser and Ruth who took the supplies to Sasabe border so that Pastor Alejandro would make sure that they were received by the villages.



Pastor Alejandro



On September 11, 2020, Mission to the Children's Pastor Alejandro was married. An incredibly Special day.



Our deadline is to have all gifts in hand between **Friday, November 21, 2020 to Friday, December 4, 2020**. Thank you always for your cherished prayers and support.

In Christ,
Ruth Schaller, President

Please stay safe, wear your mask, pray for everyone and the Lord Bless us all during this difficult time.

From the MttC Staff to all of you.

Dear Friends,

We are now facing the challenge of providing Posadas and gifts for more children this year during the Covid-19 pandemic. The border is still closed, and the Cartel has increased in the area and travel is extremely dangerous. The Lord will find a way for us.

If you would like to donate this year, Walmart, Target, Master Card or Visa gift cards would be greatly welcome in any amount.

Money would also be appreciated which we would turn into Pecos to help the villages to get their Posadas this year. If you still want to send Christmas toys, please label each gift with either boy or girl and approximate age.

Gifts are not to exceed \$10 and please do not wrap the gifts.