

# Mission to the Children

## News Update

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

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

October, 2018

### PASTOR'S CORNER

***"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."  
Proverbs 9:10***

True wisdom begins with knowledge of the Lord. That is a truth which many people may not agree with. They would say that true wisdom begins with knowledge of this world. Before a person can become financially wise they need to know how to keep a budget or to ride the stock market's ups and downs. To become academically wise a person needs to achieve college degrees. Never once is knowledge of the Holy One or his Son a requirement to become wise in the eyes of the world.

In this newsletter, you will read about hundreds of children who received school supplies from Mission to the Children. They and their families were overjoyed to receive these generous gifts to further their education. But there was more going on than advancement of worldly wisdom. They were also encouraging God's wisdom which only comes from the Bible.

With every school supply that was given, a connection was made between the Mexican family and MttC's supporters. Connections that show the love of Christ to thankful families despite political and language barriers. Connections that the Holy Spirit may one day use to teach others where true wisdom can be found: the Bible and its good news about Jesus Christ.

It is with these connections in mind that we at MttC thank you for your generous support and ask you to pray with us so the Holy Spirit would work through these connections to teach others where true wisdom can be found.

-- Pastor Tim Patoka

### Water from Heaven

***"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Isaiah 55:10-11***

It is monsoon season. For the desert climes of Sonora, 75% of their annual rain occurs in the two months of July and August. That may only amount to about five inches, but those five inches are so important to the well-being of the desert.



So when the intrepid team of Missionary Tim Flunker, Mary Seih and her daughter Hannah and Madison Flohrs-Nelson arrived in Sonora on behalf of Mission to the Children to conduct a three day VBS at the congregation in Altar, they fully expected to feel some rain. After all, on the drive down from Tucson to the border town of Nogales, the heavens opened, and rain fell for about 15 minutes. But once we crossed the border, the heavens dried back up again.

Every day in Mexico we saw thick rain clouds all around us. We saw lightening and heard thunder. As we drove back and forth between the house in Atil where we stayed overnight to the congregation in Altar, we wondered if we would feel the rain on our arms

sticking out of the van windows. But, the rain never came. It seemed to be there, but never fell to the ground.

We were privileged to participate in a similar rainfall – this one as promised by God in the familiar text from Isaiah. Sharing God Word with an average of 21 kids and 7 adults each day led to a downpour of God’s grace and love in Altar. The spiritual desert in Sonora is great. Superstition, idol worship and materialism dominate the landscape. Most everyone we talked with had a vague understanding of Jesus (his birth and death predominately) but knew little of God’s love for them. That is why we focused on three particular stories that emphasized God’s love.

We started with Jesus and the 10 lepers, focusing on the fact that we want to give thanks to God for all that he does for us. Then we looked at the parable of the lost son, seeing that God loves us, even after we stray from him and misuse everything he gives us. His love is everlasting! We concluded the week by not only learning the story of the Good Samaritan but acting it out as well! Along with the stories we learned three verses of the song Somos Uno (We Are One).

On Sunday, we had over 30 people in worship, and the children sang the song for the members and visitors.

So, as you can see, even though no moisture came from the sky this time (by the way, on Sunday, some members told me that the rain rarely comes in July – it comes mostly in August!), there was an outpouring from God on a spiritual scale – and we were glad just to be participants and observers of God’s unique grace and its outpouring in the Sonora desert!

Pastor Tim Flunker

## **Pastor Flunker’s Report**

Everyone arrived at the Tucson International Airport at about the same time. We were graciously shuttled to Grace, where we grabbed the van and headed south (after a stop at Walmart for supplies and Panda for food). We encountered a little rain on the way south to Nogales, but after we crossed the border we continued to Atil for the night. We made our way across the simple road (now even more paved than before!) to Saric. After we got back on the pavement for good, heading south

of Saric for the 20 minutes to Atil, we got a flat tire. We found the spare and the tools to change it, made the change and were in Atil by 6:30pm local time. We settled into the house, ate some supper and headed to sleep.

On Wednesday, we all awoke ready, willing and able to get the ball rolling in Altar at El Buen Pastor to teach some children. We were blessed with 18 kids on the first day, along with several parents who stayed around to watch the proceedings.



After we taught, played, reviewed, sang and made a craft, we dismissed the kids, asking them to invite their friends for Thursday’s class.



We went and got a used tire to have a spare in the van, and then we proceeded to Magdalena, one of the larger and more culturally diverse towns in the area. It is here where Father Kino’s resting place is supposed to be.

Father Kino was the priest who started many of the Catholic outposts in the 1600s. There is a larger cathedral here, along with the usual vendors that are outside of the cathedral. The group took in the cultural experience, topped off by a wonderful taco meal in an out-of-the-way eatery. We then made our way home, rested, walked around Atil, and took some pictures. After studying God’s Word together, we settled down for the night.

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On Thursday, we got going again, energetic to see whom the Lord would bring us this day. He blessed us with 24 kids and even more adults! We studied, played, reviewed, sang and crafted hard, and then by noon we were all plenty tired. We ate some lunch at the local Mariscos (seafood) place, where even octopus was tried. A few of us settled for shrimp quesadillas. After some time back at church, where Pastor Flunker spent some time talking with Pastor Alejandro, we made our way home, played some soccer with the local teens and ate some raspados (flavored shaved ice). We studied God's Word again, and fell into a restful sleep.

On Friday, we had 21 kids at El Buen Pastor in Altar and wrapped up the week with the telling and acting out of The Good Samaritan. By noon everyone's energy was expended, and we made our way to a local taqueria for a grill-full of meat, tortillas and local condiments. We went back to church, cleaned a little and then went home. We wanted to head up to the local dam (to see where our shower water was coming from!), but the crew laying fresh asphalt on the road blocked our way. We instead went home, rested and walked another part of Atil that evening. We ate supper, studied God's Word and fell into another night of restful sleep, knowing that the next day we would be heading out to the Gulf of California to see the sea.

Saturday was our sightseeing day. We left Atil around 8:30am and took about 2 ½ hours to make our way to Desemboque, a small fishing village on the Gulf of California. We walked the

beach for 90 minutes, picking up seashells while watching the local fishermen launch and recover their fishing vessels. After taking in the sun, sights and smells, we decided to head back home, stopping in Altar for a sandwich lunch. Back in Atil, the community was preparing for its annual celebration with a live band and dancing. After 9pm, the music started. All of us went to the zocalo (the plaza in the middle of town) and watched the dancing around the gazebo. We listened, watched and took in all the culture that we could have ever hoped for during those 90 minutes. The music went on way past 1am, but we left the party around 10:30pm.

Sunday was our last day in Mexico, so we started by celebrating worship with our brothers and sisters in the faith at El Buen Pastor in Altar. We heard the children sing, listened to Pastor Flunker deliver the message and then said our goodbyes, or as we say in Mexico – until later! We made our way through the Sonoran desert up to Sonata, Mexico to cross the border to Lukeville, AZ. This trip, which lasted almost 4 hours due to the 2 ½ hour wait time at the border, allowed us to spend a little time driving through the Organ Pipe National Monument, giving thanks to our Lord for his hand in the beautiful creation of the desert. We got back into Tucson around 8:30pm, stopping to eat another round of tacos and burritos, making it to the hotel next to the airport before 10pm.

On Monday, we said goodbye to Tucson, flying back to our destinations through LAX. By the grace of God, we all got home safe and sound, with a brain full of memories and a couple of thumb drives full of pictures. We concluded that the Lord had truly blessed us, and we look forward to being able to do this again next year, if the Lord gives us all strength!

## **School Supplies Update:**



A great big thank-you to all of you who gave to MttC School Supplies Drive. We were able to serve 1,351 children this year compared to 955 children last year. Your wonderful donations helps us to provide for the needs of the children in getting school supplies, so that they will be able to have the tools to learn. Needless to say, this is so very much appreciated, not only by the children, but also by their families. Again, thank-you for helping Mission to the Children this school year. God Bless you all.



## **MttC Christmas Project:**



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Dear Friends,

How does one measure success? While every individual has a different response to this question, numbers can sometimes give us a clue. How many children are we reaching with God's Word?

In August, when school supplies were delivered to each village, children, parents and volunteers also participated in a devotion. Last year we packed for 955 children. This year the total was an amazing 1351!!! This number is exciting in that in part it reflects our ability to once again be engaged in communities we have served before the invasion of the warring cartels---praise the Lord!

We are now facing the challenge of providing Posadas and gifts for more children (1100 last year.) If your group wishes to provide 10 or more gifts, please contact Karen Kilchenmann at [kbkilche@gmail.com](mailto:kbkilche@gmail.com) for names, ages and mailing instructions. Our deadline is to have all gifts in hand by Friday, November 23, 2018. That way we will have time to have all gifts ready for December visits.

Thank you for your always-cherished prayers.

In Christ,  
Ruth Schaller