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OCTOBER 2022

## PASTOR'S CORNER

### October 2022

*The demons begged [Jesus],  
"If you drive us out, send us  
into the herd of pigs." 32 He  
told them, "Go!"  
(Matthew 8:31-32 EHV)*

As we approach Halloween at the end of October, our attention is drawn to the ghosts and ghouls, the spirits and supernatural. For many, there is nothing occult or sinister to it. Children's costumes may look otherworldly, but it's no different than superheroes or talking animals in their young minds. The jack-o'-lanterns and spooky decorations around Christian homes are soon swapped out for autumnal leaves and turkeys as the Thanksgiving season soon approaches.

While Halloween may not pose any danger for many, some become too curious in the unseen. Questions arise about the supernatural. Concerns are raised about one's safety. Nevertheless, Christians know one unchanging truth that comforts them in every "what if?" supernatural scenario - their Savior Jesus and his almighty power.

No one can stand up to Jesus' power, not even a legion of demons. These demons had the ability to drive a man in his right

mind out of town and to drive fear into the hearts of the townspeople. For all their power, the demons knew they were in trouble when they saw Jesus coming.

They did not defend themselves but rather begged for mercy to be sent into the nearby herd of pigs. With one word - "Go!" - Jesus granted their request and showed his power even over a legion of demons.

We take comfort in Jesus' almighty power over the supernatural. In the likely (and hopeful) case of the supernatural only appearing in costumes and decorations, we thank God for these festive distractions that change as quickly as the seasons. In the uncommon case of supernatural activity, there is still nothing to fear. For our Savior and his almighty power is with us that makes even a legion of demons beg for mercy.

We give thanks to Jesus all the more. For the one who wield this almighty power is the same Savior who lovingly died for us on the cross. If Jesus saved our souls from sin, won't he also save us from the supernatural? Of course! And he certainly does. As such, may this reminder of Jesus' almighty power and love for you strengthen your heart and calm your mind this Halloween season. Amen.

- Pastor Tim Patoka



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## *PRESIDENT'S CORNER*

Thank you for allowing Mission to the Children to continue sharing the Gospel message in Mexico with as many people as possible while responding and providing humanitarian aid to those in need. One of our MttC's goals is to focus on children and their families in their native language. However, the circumstances in which we've worked in Mexico have changed due to Covid and Cartel violence. For several years Youth Groups traveled into Mexico to conduct Vacation Bible School as part of our summer program. But that's not been advisable for some time now.

We've been blessed with several very loyal and dedicated volunteers, but we need more volunteers to help in Mexico - especially those with Spanish language skills.

Responding to these changing circumstances we're trying three new initiatives.

First, we want to begin a mission site in Tucson which will be as Spanish as any we have in Sonora. Mexican Americans living in Tucson need the Gospel too and as they become WELS Christians, we are hoping a few will volunteer to work with us in Mexico. We hope to create a mission site that will also be friendly to WELS youth missionary groups who wish to practice their language skills in a safe

environment. The source of these connections will be through our Mexican contacts who legally and frequently travel back and forth across the border. We're just beginning to explore these connections and we're hoping for great success.

Second, WELS World Missions created a system for training church leaders through internet Bible training called "Academia Cristo". We're connecting our Mexican village participants with Academia Cristo and helping them through the class work. As they continue training, they will become better and better church workers and more able to share the Gospel within their families and neighbors. We currently have three ladies taking classes and hope that men and teenagers will follow.

Third, we're looking to simplify our Mexican mission effort without sacrificing our quality initiatives. We've been working in Sonora for almost 40 years and have two churches in the villages. Our efforts have never been and never will be in vain. This is something our Lord asks us to do; Share the Gospel and help responsibly where needed. We aim to continue doing both as we continue to focus on children sharing the love of our Lord with as many as possible.

Our posada effort in December, always a big success and a favorite with the children, has been a challenging effort on



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our part. It involves getting lists of children in each of the villages and providing individual gifts by name. This has been a huge undertaking requiring dozens of volunteers on our side of the border. We seem to have a few less volunteers every year and our best ones seem to keep getting older! Imagine that! So, we're changing it up, focusing on making a better fiesta in the villages with more focus on our Savior instead of individual gifts.

We'll offer a family gift box or bag containing gifts for the entire family. One box or one bag for each family but more participation by the kids and a greater focus on our Savior.

That's where we're heading, and our entire Board of Directors is on board! Hallelujah! We're hoping that these initiatives will be embraced by our donors. We're simply the arms and legs for our mission donors who wish to share the Gospel and humanitarian aid with the less fortunate, focusing on children who speak Spanish.

*Peace Be With You*  
*John*

*Mission to the Children Trip Report*  
*September 22-24, 2022*  
*John Kramer, Jeff Hauser*

Thursday, 22 September:

Those board members available met at Grace Church to help us gain a consensus on three issues.

In attendance were Pastor Patoka, Ruth Schaller, Karen Manning, Jeff and Lori Hauser and John Kramer.

Issues as defined at the meeting plus details agreed to in the villages:

1. Posada Tour
2. Tucson Mission
3. Phone and App Applicability to Sonora mission effort.
4. Dates for the Posada Tour are December 9, 10, 11.

A) 9th El Buen Pastor in Altar:  
3:00pm – Atil 6:00pm

B) 10th Tubutama 10:00am, La Reforma  
12:00pm, Saric 3:00pm

C) 11th Sasabe 11:00am

One Family gift will be distributed using the normal coupon distribution lists. Advance money was distributed to village leaders to prepare for the posada fiesta.

2. We all agree that our interest in sharing the Gospel to Spanish speakers might be



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well served by starting a Tucson mission location.

This might lead to more volunteers for Mission to the Children and an opportunity for WELS youth groups at a Tucson location.

Several ideas are being explored including using our Mexican village connections to find and establish a mission location in Tucson, calling a Missionary to connect with Spanish speakers and find/establish a mission location, finding/calling another WELS person to do the same.

Grace church council is reluctant to free up Pastor Tim Patoka and they are fully engaged with English mission efforts. We'll continue exploring opportunities and ideas as we move forward in establishing a MttC mission location in Tucson.

3. The Academia Cristo App (Application) has been loaded onto our three phones and tablet, with two located in Altar and one in Sasabe. We're trying to ascertain if the App works and how well it works in our villages considering very poor Wi-Fi availability. I've already heard back from Melissa in Sasabe that she is working through the lessons. Great start!

Friday, 23 September:

After crossing the border at 10:30 am and paying 800 pesos to the customs official, Jeff and I continued to Atil for a 1:00pm

despensa. We had 65 men and ladies attend the Bible study on *"The Love and Obedience God has shown us in Jesus"*.

7 Children were present, Four participated in the children's Bible study. School supplies and food coupons were distributed to the families. Graciela, our local leader, advised us not to drive at night. She is also requesting a laptop for her oldest to use at school.



At 4:00 pm Jeff and I were in Altar at the church "El Buen Pastor" and conducted an hour-long Bible study and Children's devotion on the same topic. 12 ladies and men were in attendance and 5 Children. Note: water does work, no hot water, one air conditioning system of the three works, 2-foot sized hole in the ceiling of storage room, the 4 tables that are used outside are beyond repair. More chairs are needed.

Saturday, 24 September:

After spending the night in Atil, Jeff and I traveled to Tubutama for the 9:00am



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despensa. Graciela and Beto drove with us as they were going to spend the rest of the weekend with relatives in Tucson. Bible study was presented to the dozen or more attendees plus 8 children. Jeff engaged them in a dart game, and they took home the children's lesson to work it at home.

10:00am brought us to La Reforma, almost 19 ladies/men in attendance and 6 children. I gave the same Bible lesson as the other villages received. It's obvious that two years of Covid plus increased violence has had a negative effect on attendance. School supplies and food coupons were distributed in each location.



We arrived early for the 1:00pm baptismal service in Sasabe. I discussed current events and issues with Monica and paid the store. A wheelchair is needed for an elderly church member. The baptismal service was preceded by a devotion and the 15 people in attendance participated enthusiastically in the service. After that we crossed the border and returned to Tucson. Jeff drove Graciela and Beto to their relative's house near Valencia and Country Club Dr. Might this be our Tucson mission? That's who we are and that's where we're going!



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Hello everyone.



**By the Grace of God, we have another opportunity to share the Christmas story with the children and family in Sonora Mexico.**

**This year due to Covid, the changes happening and safety we will share our love for Christ in a different way.**

**Knowing the great need our families have in Mexico we have decided to do a family box. The first gift in the box will be Children's Bible Story book. These we have ordered, and the cost is about 12.00 per family. This helps the family with the spiritual needs in their home. The second item will be a soccer ball or sports ball. This will support them with physical activity and great family fun. The third item will be a stuffed animal about 10" high, to snuggle with while reading together. The fourth item is socks for the**



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kids. Of course, we can't forget some candy for their sweet tooth. We can do this with your help. Here is how you can help:

Donate money towards the Bible Story Book. Purchase a soccer ball, sports ball, stuffed animal, socks for kids or candy and send it to: Lori/Jeff Hauser at 5915 E Beverly Street Tucson, AZ 85711 (This can be done easily on Amazon)

You can always send Visa, Mastercard, Walmart, or Target gift cards and we can buy the items here.

All items need to be here by November 27.  
No later since we will be going down early in December.

Always, we thank you for your support and we could not do this without all of you.

NOTE:

For those of you who are in Tucson and would like to help, we will be boxing up the gifts on Monday, December 5, 2022, starting at 6pm until finished. It will be at Grace Lutheran Church in the fellowship hall.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all of you.

From MttC Board.