

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS (PART 5)

This year we celebrate a Golden Anniversary of ministry (1972 - 2022).

Following are a few opportunities we have had over the years.

Fifty years, fifty chapters, but it all actually started long before that. The year was 1964, and it was Faith Promise time at the Markle Church of Christ. The church secretary and children's minister, Pat DeVore, had it in her heart and dreams to become a missionary to Africa. Then came along missionary to Mexico, Ted Murray, and he extended the call to come work at their children's home (Mexico Mountain Mission) in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Her dream was altered a bit as she returned to Cincinnati to finish her Bible studies and during the 1965 Faith Promise Rally, she answered the call to go to Mexico. As a little boy of 9, that seemed like a world away, but all of us children rallied around our children's minister through VBS, and away she went to Mexico. Pat worked beside the Murrays from 1965 - 1972. During that time she helped care for children and helped establish Colegio Cristiano del Centro. Seeing the need to care for more children, Casa de Niños was founded in 1972. Much more could be said, but several missionary helpers came along side Pat in those first years.

One such passionate missionary lady was Nancy Saunders. By now, several handicapped, blind and autistic children were under the care of Nancy. Casa de Niños II was established, which later became known as Ebenezer. These two ladies had a heart for children and a vision to see the ministry expand. During this time, 2 churches had been established by them and hundreds of children were cared for. Each year, Pat came back to Markle to the Faith Promise and for her annual Spring meeting.

Speeding things along, in 1990, we were invited by Pat to see that the ministry stay within the Church of Christ as it was founded by the Markle Church of Christ, Markle, Indiana. We accepted the call and in 1991, we became the second directors of Casa de Niños. That was about 19 plus chapters written in a few paragraphs. Let's now move into the next 30 plus years of ministry service in Mexico.

During such times, we were blessed with serving many Bible College students through the Jose Jorge Lopez Aguilar Bible College Scholarship funds. Then there was the Higher Education Fund to help our children complete their dreams of going to the University. Both funds were given to those deserving to serve full time in ministry and gain Higher Education secular degrees. Blessed beyond measure by many wonderful supporters. We have preachers from the Northern and Southern borders, as well as east to west coasts and proud to say that everyone of our Higher Education students graduated from the University.

Parties - We have had our share of them over the years. Special 15 años parties, wedding receptions, church dinners, University dinners, Bible College suppers, the list is long. Several times we enjoyed live Mariachi bands and one of the most memorable

was Jose's ordination service and luncheon in 2019. Valley Christian Church leaders came to Mexico to ordain and lay their hands on this special servant of the Lord.

Sheri had a special ministry of serving the mothers or relatives of the children we took care of. Two mothers became Christians after many years of drug and family abuse. One mom, now a Christian, had a talent of collecting all of the used and worn out Bibles she could find. She would repair them, put new covers on them and go out to evangelize.

We were blessed to ship Mexican Church Hymnals to a Hispanic Church in Cincinnati, Ohio, who were in need. Jose put together a Christian Chorus book of over 270 songs. Hundreds of copies of that book are being used as far away as Cancun and all over Mexico.

Indiana University IUCSF Campus House takes the honors of visiting the most with over 13 trips as groups and later several individuals and married couples came to visit and minister with us. Our current Emanuel Mexico Mission board president, Justin Davis, from Fishers, Indiana, was one of those amazing IUCSF students. Language never seemed to be an obstacle. A smile, laughter, a hug and experiencing new foods brought our kids and those University students together.

I speak English fluently and pretty good Spanish, but when you don't speak a third language what do you do? That was the case at a family camp in Oaxaca, Mexico. There was a third language group present all week and several, if not all the speakers were either American or Mexican. We enjoyed being interpreted by a Triqui Indian.

Many have asked how do you keep the facility in such remarkable condition? There are 8 bathrooms, 3 offices, 2 living rooms, 2 kitchens, a library and many other rooms and patios. The answer is: Groups! Many come to help paint, repair and install plumbing, electrical work, build furniture and more. We only had one requirement. You can work all you want, but take time to know the ministry to the children, our neighbors, church camp, VBS programs and especially worship with us at the Ontañon Church of Christ.

We will continue with more chapters to this amazing 50 year history book. Many of you have helped with pages and pages of memorable stories by your visits and by your generous gifts. Next month we want to share how many children have been served, families reunited and churches planted. The ministry may have changed its name, but the central focus is the same. Make disciples. A dream was given to a young woman to become a missionary and we proudly carry on that dream by answering the call to Matthew 9:37-38 "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest fields."

We answered the call, will you? We need more workers and more financial support for Emanuel Mexico Mission. In the coming months we will share with you new opportunities to serve while ministering to youth in a whole new capacity. May God

continue to write His Story (history) each and every day through Emanuel Mexico Mission.

Jose, David and Sheri

Jose Manuel Gonzalez
Field Director of Emanuel Mexico Mission

David and Sheri DeBolt
Directors of Emanuel Mexico Mission

All gifts are tax deductible.
Donations can be made out to:
Emanuel Mexcio Mission

Mailing Address:
2950 E. - 350 N.
Bluffton, IN 46714