

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OTHERS (PART 6)

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

For the past five months we have shared what God has accomplished through the ministry of Emanuel Mexico Mission. The legacy and story continues.

Intern program for young students; there was Craig Shady from Cincinnati Christian University who spent 7 months with us. He did an outstanding job of ministry and was able to travel with us to several destinations.(wedding, church camp and churches) which helped him see the diverse Mexican culture. Tommy, Justin, Whitney, Amy, Sara, Brad, Renae and many others enjoyed their experiences with us. One intern (Amy Brane Noyola) worked with the former director (Pat Devore) and returned to full time service in Mexico. She teamed up with a local preacher, Jorge Llamas, the father of Daniel LLamas. She soon began the ministry of Pavon Christian Ministries right outside her home on her front sidewalk. Today it is a thriving ministry in Soledad, Mexico, just minutes from San Luis Potosi. We have always enjoyed working with Amy as her enthusiasm for the Lord continues to shine brighter than ever for the people of Mexico. Her most recent blessing was to see one of her first VBS students graduate from Bible College in the spring of 2022.

Emanuel Mexico Mission has helped to establish and build churches in Oaxaca, Zacatecas, Coahuila, Queretaro and San Luis Potosi. From an Adobe church built by our children to a bamboo roofed church we have enjoyed working and worshipping with them all. Best of all our children grew spiritually with each and every gift given to see a church grow in number and see a building dedicated to better serve the Lord.

Home base is the Ontañon Church of Christ, who will celebrate 30 years of serving the inner city of San Luis Potosi, this October 2022. Our first service in 1992, a visiting neighbor told us right out "you will be just like the other churches that started here, you will grow and move". My words to her, "no we will not move, you have my promise, we are here to stay for you and all of our neighbors in the inner city". Has it been easy? No. With God's grace and goodness we continue to serve as a light to the inner city.

We have remodeled completely the church building, which we purchased in 1995, after having services in the dinning room of the children's home for three years. We had outgrown that building several times as we grew and helped start other churches, but we adjusted, never left. In 2020 we adapted the large open patio of the mission to serve more effectively as a worship center. The old chapel, to which we like to call it now, serves as a place for church leaders in the area to gather for meetings, Bible classes and baptisms.

I've often said the Ontañon church is an emergency room for the spiritually sick as we have helped several area churches going through divisions, church

members seeking a new church and helping others to grow spiritually. We personally attended two congregations to help restore and build. If needed we counseled those in need of a new direction, leadership and doctrine. Once we had funds to build a second story on the Ontañon church, but saw that another local congregation needed a second floor. We emptied the bank account and gave it all to them. Out of that church came Daniel LLamas who worked with us for several years and is now the Academic Dean of Colegio Biblico in Piedras Negras, Mexico.

Since 1991, the complete complex has had a remodel. All 8 bathrooms are new, 2 kitchens remodeled and added a third in the church area, any where you look you see change and growth. What is needed most at this time is painting the exterior and interior. First and foremost, we are here to serve and have a facility that is adaptable to teaching, preaching, sharing, feeding and loving others.

Over the years we have been blessed with special gifts from individuals, families and churches with what one church called "first fruits gifts". Those special offerings helped to restore the facility and provide for more children's needs. But we are a mission that looks behind our walls. After remodeling the church in 2005 with a special offering, we still had funds available to help the Bible College (Colegio Cristiano del Centro). We were able to completely restore 4 bathrooms, install 3 new water tanks, 2 new water heaters, paint the entire boys dorm and install security lights. But wait, we still had funds from that "first fruits gift", we were able to provide the much needed transportation for Pedro Rivera and his family. Our boys loved to travel on Sundays with Pedro to the Adobe Church in Zacatecas, Mexico. Once they got his car started, by pushing it, they would secure the doors with wire and away the adventure would begin for the afternoon. The Warren Church of Christ in 2005, provided through us a beautiful white van for Pedro. It served him well for over 15 years. Pedro passed away from COVID in 2020. Today his son, Emmanuel, has since graduated (2020) from Bible College and wants to restore the van so he can better serve as his father did.

Together we have cared for hundreds of children on a full time basis, provided Bible College Scholarships, Higher Education Scholarships, helped countless street children with their studies, food, clothes, medications and provided thousands of meals to our neighbors of the inner city.

We have hosted Bible dramas, church choirs, church banquets, youth retreats, Christian concerts, University dinners, wedding receptions, funerals, puppet shows, and endless amount of church dinners.

Our facility has permanent housing for guests. Over 2000 visitors have enjoyed our visitors quarters. From roof top devotions to the open patio singing and worship times our neighborhood knows we love the Lord. They know we are a safe place and a Christian home, like an oasis one person said in the middle of the desert. Not only our American visitors enjoy our guest

housing but traveling missionaries, preachers and a large number of Mexican nationals always know our guest area is open to everyone. It was a challenge but we rose to the occasion and housed over 100 guests for a week long Christian Convention that was held in the city as well as prepare food for the entire convention. A lot of team work came together with all the local churches working together. We like to say we ministered along side every Christian and Christian church in the city and country.

This past season of Covid was a challenge but our guest housing area housed complete families as well as individuals with Covid. It provided a safe clean area to recover as the rooms, bathrooms and kitchen facilities could be used by everyone and safely keep their distance from one another other.

The story will continue as we not only look back but look forward to a new season of service for the Kingdom. Next month you will hear about our forwarding agents, past and present board members, pet therapy, kids tour, vehicles, peach tree and palm trees, memorial gifts, more about groups and some of our current projects and needs. In the meantime we covet your prayers as we continue the legacy of those who paved the way for this amazing ministry to the inner city of San Luis Potosi, Mexico.

Jose, David and Sheri

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