

Mission De Candelilla



CHANGING LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORD

La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

Spring 2009

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Looking Back

As with each year, 2008 had its highs and lows. We have seen the Lord do many wonderful things in this work that have given Sara and me great joy. As He touches lives on both sides of the border, we are humbled by the touch of His Holy Spirit. The people in Mexico continue to be touched by the medical and other care we bring in the name of the Lord. We sense that the people are becoming more aware of His presence. The groups continue to be touched as well. I am blessed to see the work He does in the lives of the folks that come to Mexico with us. We are especially moved by the young people who come with us.

Sometimes in the midst of the battle it seems that we are against insurmountable odds. It is therefore good for us to reflect back on the year and see how His hand has not only shaped and changed the lives around us but how He has changed us as well. I encourage you to do the same from time to time. "Do this in remembrance of me" was the Lord's statement as He gave us the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Each time I take communion I recall the great sacrifice He made for us. Therefore, let us remember what He did for us recently as well.

2008 brought sad moments as well. The most significant of these moments was our loss of Simon Marquez. This past summer our dear friend and brother went home to be with the Lord. Many times as I am preparing for a trip or other work my mind drifts to thoughts about Simon. Simon supported us in every way possible. He gave of his money, time and most importantly of his prayers. "I am praying for you brother" and "Let me tell you something" are some of the words that he spoke into my life that will echo in mind always. I thank God every day for men like Simon. While we miss him, our loss is his gain. He is with His Lord and I am sure he is still praying for us!

So, as always, life is filled with joy and (Sometimes) sadness, but even in the midst of sorrows we have Him.

(Looking Back Continued on Page 3)



The New Clinic in San Vicente

From a drawing to a reality

Eric Mustard drew the plans and a crew from Heritage School in Fredericksburg built a long awaited clinic building in San Vicente last summer! It was really hot but the crew went to the river every afternoon to cool off in the muddy Rio Grande.

June 1, 2009 you will need your passports! Get them now! If you have any questions call us.

Border Concerns

Increasingly we receive comments about the levels of violence on the border. In fact we have had two youth groups cancel their plans to go with us into Mexico this summer. I understand the fear associated with this. I lamented to Sara yesterday that unfortunately I do not have as loud a mouthpiece as our news media have. While it is true that in certain locations the violence has dramatically increased, the area we travel through, is less violent on a per capita basis than most if not all major cities in the U. S..

Historically Mexico has a much lower violent crime rate than we do. In addition, the

violence is usually associated with other criminal activity. Even in the case of Americans who have been murdered in Mexico (230 since 2003) this is true. In most of the other instances individuals are in places we would not be associated with.

Let us keep all of this in perspective and choose to not live in fear. Unfortunately fear sells and so our news media will only focus on what we as citizens will feast upon. Therefore, it is imperative for us to examine the facts without all of the hype and make assessments based on reality and not emotionality. Since 2003, as stated earlier, there have been 230 Americans murdered in Mexico. During that same time American tourists visited Mexico roughly 150 million times. That means that there has been 1 American murdered for every 652,174 visits. It is believed that 160 of these murders involved individuals who were involved in illegal activity. It is also believed that the remaining 70 murders were of individuals who were innocent of any illegal activity. That means that for all of us who visit Mexico simply for the sake of being a tourist we have one chance in 2,142,857 visits. I doubt if that is any worse than any major city in the U. S.

It is likely that it is more dangerous to be on a ski slope. On average nearly 40 people are accidentally killed on ski slopes in the U. S. There are roughly 60 million visits to ski slopes annually. If we could account for the **actual time** spent by Americans on ski slopes and compare that to actual time spent by Americans in Mexico, we would find that that at the very least it is just as safe to be in Mexico. Yet none of us would suggest that Americans should stop skiing.

Finally, I have come across a map that uses FBI statistics which was published by the San Antonio Express on February 8th. This map shows all the Mexican states

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CHANGING LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

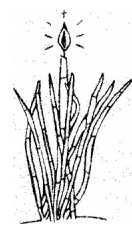
on the border and the number of murders
committed in each state. Coahuila, the
state we do most of our

(Border Concerns continued on Page 3)

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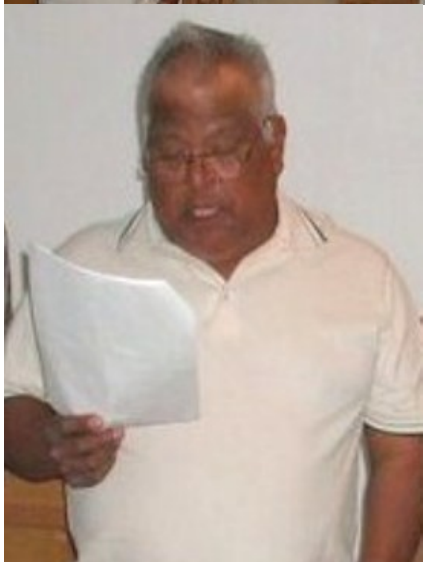
CHANGING LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER

La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto



In Memory of Simon

We were deeply touched by the passing of our dear brother, Simon Marquez. While we know that Simon Marquez is in glory with the Lord, we who served with him miss the joy it was to work side by side with such a wonderful man of God. His laughter and his willingness to serve are some of my fond memories of this dear friend. But the thing that stands out most about Simon Marquez was his continuous sharing of the Gospel of our Lord. One could not have a conversation with Simon without talking about Jesus! If my legacy is half of what Simon's is I know I will stand before the Lord one day and hear "Well done good and faithful servant!" Truly Simon, as Paul wrote in second Timothy, has "run the race".



Simon was always willing to pitch in wherever possible to touch people with the Love or our Lord. Here he is singing with the "Los Tigres Del Norte". When it was time to swing a hammer, set up the clinic, wash dishes, preach the word or help with praise and worship Simon was always willing to share in the work. Let us be poured out as a "drink offering". (2nd Timothy chapter 4verse 6) Certainly, Simon's life was a great example of how we are to be poured out.



Changes

For years we have tried to keep the costs of our trips artificially low so that all could participate. Many years ago no one paid anything. One of the local churches gave \$1000 per trip. This did not necessarily cover all costs but it made it easier for Dr. Layne, I and others to pitch in and cover the remainder of costs. Most medications were donations of samples given to physicians by pharmaceutical companies. Costs of transportation were covered by individuals taking their own vehicles and the transportation expenses were less expensive going to Big Bend and simply crossing the river.

Now, we travel much further over very difficult roads. We purchase almost all of our medications, thereby improving our services. Over the years we have also added other important services. These changes along with higher prices have increased our costs dramatically. When we add up all of the direct, indirect, short term and long term costs associated with the trips the average cost per trip is about \$5000. This does not include the cost of logistical trips to take inventory, work on border relations (working with Mexican customs) and material

delivery. The result of all this is that we have had to raise fees to \$350 per trip. We have been reluctant to do this but in the end we have no choice, if we are to survive as a viable ministry. I might add that the fees only cover the cost of the work of the ministry and does not cover our salaries nor does it cover administrative costs. In fact in each of the last three years Sara and I went without salaries for a period of two to three months because we had underwritten the cost of the trips with funds that were raised to cover our salaries. I have known for some time that we would likely have to take this action but held off for as long as we could. As a result, last Fall the board voted to increase the fees effective January 1, 2009.

I do not have the space to list our entire budget but I have listed some of the big ticket items in our budget that relate to the direct costs of the trips. Listed below are the amounts we spent in 2008 for these items.

1. \$15,889 for maintenance and repair
2. \$15,818 for fuel
3. \$6,251 for vehicle insurance
4. \$8,690 for groceries (last year we provided 2419 meals at \$3.59 per meal in the desert for all the groups)
5. \$7099 for medications and medical supplies

We will still (as finances permit) scholarship people and of course we will always accept payment plans. We want you to be able to go but for the mission to survive we are faced with no alternative but to ask participants to bear more of the responsibility.

If you desire to go on a trip but you feel that you cannot afford it please contact us. We will be more than happy to help you find a way to make it happen!

YES! I want to join you!

Our fees to participants only cover the basic costs of each trip. All of our other expenses are covered by private donations. If you would like to join us on a trip, help with scholarships or donate to our general fund, please let us know.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- Contact me about joining a trip to Mexico
- Enclosed is my one-time donation for \$ _____
- Enclosed is my monthly donation for \$ _____

Thank you!

Mail to: Mision de Candelilla
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Phone: 830.997.6542
Email: callerkamp@beecreek.net



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CHANGING LIVES ON BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER
La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto



(Looking Back continued)

He is our Comforter. His Holy Spirit gently touches us in our brokenness and wipes the tears from our eyes. At times of great gladness He is with us also and He rejoices with us. This life, whether today I experience tears of joy or tears of sadness, is a gift from Him and I will be glad in it! Not necessarily gleeful at every moment but glad and grateful to be alive in Him! Curtis

PS On page 4(over) we have attached a report that was prepared for the board of directors last year. Please take a look at it. It is good for me to see what all He has done through your support.

Our Supporters in 2008

We cannot emphasize enough how much your support has meant to us. Whether you prayed for us, volunteered in some way or given financially you have contributed to His Kingdom. We thank you for your generous hearts!

John & Carol Aceti
 Susan (Finn) Alban
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(Border Concerns continued)

time and efforts in shows no American murders since 2003. That is a big fat 0! Chihuahua on the other hand shows 28 murders of Americans since 2003, however, almost all of these are in Juarez, the city across the border from El Paso. The closest we come to Juarez is about 200 miles when we are in Ojinaga. The record indicates that where we travel in Chihuahua, there is little or no violence.

So let us not be influenced by this avalanche of fear that is being fed to us. Even if it we were actually in grave danger, we as Christians cannot allow ourselves to live this way. 2nd Timothy Chapter 1 verse 7 states "For God has not given us a spirit of fear....."

While it is important to make sound decisions based on wisdom He has given us, it is just as important to make sure that the information we are receiving is Wisdom from Him. I can assure you that any decision based on fear does not involve God. That is not to say that we should not make assessments about circumstances and proceed cautiously. I can find scripture for this as well. It is to say that fear should never enter into the equation. Fear will only let you focus on the negative and not allow you to hear all of the facts.

Sara and I have been to the desert 4 times this year already. In addition she traveled on one occasion alone to Piedras Negras and on another occasion to Muzquiz (100 miles south of Piedras Negras) Narcissa Marquez went with her. Never once did I feel apprehensive about their travel in Mexico or believe that they were in any more danger than if they were traveling to San Antonio, Texas.

My prayer for you is that you will not allow fear to keep you from doing what He would have you do. Paul in Romans Chapter 14 vs. 17 states that the Kingdom of God is "righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit". I pray for more of His Kingdom in your lives today!
 Curtis

More Sad News

Today as we were beginning to print this newsletter we received word that Joe Desloge had passed away early this morning (March 18). We are deeply saddened by his passing. Joe was a strong supporter of our work. In addition to his financial support he was always looking for ways to improve the lives of people in the ejidos. He went with us often. We will miss him. We wish to express our condolences to his family and especially our friend Katherine Peake.



Year In Review
2008

Medical trips and Service projects

Jan. 1-5 Holy Ghost service project to Alamos De Marquez

Poured concrete foundation for pavilion

Vacation bible school

Worship service with each night

Jan 16-20 Boquillas Medical trip

Feb 6-10 San Vicente Medical trip

Feb 20-24 Santa Elena Medical trip

April 10-11 Well child clinic in Piedras Negras

Assist Angel Garza in helping local ejido (Piedras Negras Rotary)

May 14-18 Boquillas medical trip

June 4-8 San Vicente Medical trip

June 18-22 Santa Elena Medical trip

June 28- July 2 Holy Ghost project to Alamos De Marquez

Complete Pavilion

Vacation Bible School

Worship service each night

July 11-16 Heritage School service project to San Vicente

Build Clinic

Vacation Bible School

Worship service each night

July 28 - August 2 Service project to Boquillas

(Greater Life Christian Center & Journey Church)

Renovate clinic & add on to kitchen

Vacation Bible School

Worship service each night

Sept 17-21 Boquillas Medical trip

October 8 -12 San Vicente medical trip

October 22-26 Santa Elena medical trip

*Medical trips saw
1100 + patient visits
in 2008.*

*Value of goods &
services of medical
was \$600,000+ in
2008.*

*Thirty Medical
clinics were held
during the course of
nine medical trips*

*Materials donated to
build service projects
was almost \$20,000.*

*Value of completed
service projects was
in excess of \$85,000*

*Forty worship
services were
conducted in Mexico
in 10 villages in
2008.*

*Fourteen days of
vacation bible school
conducted in 4 of the
10 villages in 2008*

*Sixty-five
devotionals were
conducted with 13
teams from the U.S.*