

# THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

# FAITHWORKS

December 2013



## “YOU STILL COME BACK AT CHRISTMAS!”

**W**ow! Does it seem to you that Christmas 2013 is already here? It seems to sneak up in the calendar before we realize it.

But, it’s a wonderful time in spite of the challenges of time and circumstances. The season reminds us once again of what Scripture said of Jesus at His naming—“Immanuel—God with us” (*Matthew 1:23*) How we need that annual memory jog!

At *FaithWorks*, we choose to keep that remembrance alive through our yearly Navajo Children’s Christmas Mission, which we just completed December 7th. Twenty-two volunteer missionaries from six different churches braved below freezing temperatures at our Navajo Reservation mission site just outside of Leupp, Arizona, to provide a potluck Christmas dinner, sing carols in both English and Navajo, share the Christmas Story of the angels’ revelation to the Bethlehem shepherds (*Luke 2*)—very pertinent in the sheep culture of the Navajo people—and to host Santa Claus to give out gifts to *all* that were there.

Because of the overwhelming generosity of Christians in our 26 member churches, we were able

this year to provide Santa with a record 405+ gifts—all wrapped with love and compassion—to give out in the service we shared together. Valued at \$10-\$15 per gift, all the brand new toys and clothes (some were handmade with love) were estimated to total above \$4860! What a wonderful surprise for all of us. We praise God for this gift!



This becomes even more significant when we discovered afresh that 1) Many of the gifts went to children and adults who have family members incarcerated and unable to provide anything for their families at Christmas, and 2) A large number of these gifts will be distributed by the leaders of the Leupp Navajo church to other more far-flung remote locations and “Chapter Houses” on the vast reservation.

The blessings you were a part of this 2013 Christmas will remind our Navajo friends that God is with them too, in offering the Greatest Gift of all—His Son, Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

It is perhaps the nicest thing we heard on the Reservation mission this year:

“You STILL come back at Christmas!”

On mission with you and a very Merry Christmas from ALL at *FaithWorks*!

Glen Allen,  
Executive Director



*The Leupp church is full of people, presents and Christmas joy.*



Pictures from the Navajo Christmas party.



## FAITHWORKS CELEBRATION—2013!

This year's celebration was different and exciting! Over 140 folks attended the evening at Christ's Church of Flagstaff on Oct. 4. With booths set up all over the auditorium, folks could peruse last year's missions and sign up for trips in 2014 with actual folks who had gone on that particular trip. A dessert bar was a favorite with all, as was the beautifully executed dance steps of the Folklorico troupe from Williams, Arizona, led by Armando and Elva Padilla.



The 2014 mission trip brochures were unveiled as was the 2014 calendar. If you would like a calendar for gift giving, please call the office soon to get yours in time for Christmas. At \$10 each, they truly convey the mission spirit for the whole year.



## NAVAJO CONSTRUCTION MISSION TO LEUPP AND DILKON

*FaithWorks* sent out two teams to the Navajo Reservation in October for a one-day mission trip.

The Leupp, (pronounced Loop) team, led by Randy Sealover, consisted of 14 volunteers mostly from the Verde Valley area. They met at The Church of God Holiness with Pastor Dean Bahe and had a list of tasks to do in the one day blitz. These varied from digging a new outhouse hole, patching the corrugated leaking roof, painting doors, to washing and cleaning windows in the fellowship hall. Everyone had a great time working and serving together!

The Dilkon team, led by Jerry Korn, consisted of 12 volunteers mostly from the Williams area. They, too, had a good list of tasks for their one-day blitz even farther out on the Reservation at the Church of the Nazarene, pastored by Mike Winslow. This team worked on repairing extensive damage to a ceiling, a lot of window washing and kitchen cleaning, and had a good measure of fun and fellowship with the church members.

Both teams truly enjoyed the Navajo tacos the ladies of the two churches prepared for them.

Thank you to all who give, go, and pray for these missions!





*Kathy Marvin organizes activities with the children.*



*To see these and other mission photos IN COLOR, visit our website Faithworks4us.org.*



*The women at Fuente de Vida prepare wonderful meals for us.*



*Our worship service with Fuente de Vida Church*

## NOVEMBER MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

In November, a team of 16 missionaries traveled to Mexico to join up with a Mexican dentist and several Mexican interpreters to provide a free medical clinic to the poor in Agua Prieta. The clinic is part of the *Fuente de Vida Iglesia*, (Living Water Church) pastored by Gela Lopez. We host a clinic here three times a year. This was our 31<sup>st</sup> medical mission trip in Mexico, during which the doctors saw 126 patients, and the dentists saw 75 patients. But beyond the numbers, focusing on the impressions missionaries had while interacting with the Mexican people in this financially impoverished neighborhood can be illuminating. Often, our realizations of how life is so different there help us realize how much we take for granted, and also help us see how people with such different lives still share a love of Christ in spite of their circumstances. These new perspectives help us connect with each other and with God in powerful ways. So here is a window into some missionaries' experiences:

One missionary was amazed at how close to the edge many people here are. People with diabetes and little access to medication or to a good diet having dangerous vital signs. A special needs girl whose diabetic mother had very high blood sugar and didn't realize it. A baby with a viral respiratory infection that Pastor Gela was able to take to the hospital immediately.

One missionary was touched when letting the children choose their own Beanie Babies, watching their faces light up. Watching a 2-year-old taking one to his 6-month-old sibling because she was crying, then laying his head next to the baby on the mom's lap.

Another missionary was struck by how cooperative and polite the children were. How they helped each other out rather than quarrel. She enjoyed watching them use the jump ropes we provided and learn how to double jump. She noticed the *Fuente de Vida* church had a positive influence on their musical abilities and how much the children enjoyed singing. She was impressed with the many young people coming to the church. Especially in the church ministry to young children on Saturday mornings (one of our clinic days), playing games with them, teaching them Bible lessons, and providing snacks for the children. Quite a number of children participated in this Saturday morning outreach.

Another missionary said how the clinic patients used to not follow through with taking the medicines after they left the clinic. Now, since we've been regularly coming for years and they have come to trust us, they are bringing in their empty medicine bottles for a refill. Diabetic patients are keeping track of their blood sugars. They are now taking ownership of their health.

Two or three patients said they were alone and sad. Pastor Gela was able to meet with one of them who recommitted herself to Christ during the meeting. Many people here have little material wealth yet are very generous with their time—caring for others, and sharing what they do have. They are very appreciative of what help we can give them.

Another missionary said he loved seeing an older brother acting as a second father to a 2-year-old, really taking care of him. They accept family responsibility in amazing ways.

Our clinic saw a woman whose back and arms muscles were in knots and were very painful. She works in a factory and is too short for the table she works at so has to raise her arms to an unnatural level. The factory manager would not let her bring in a stool to stand on so she could be higher up. There are many factories just across the border in Mexico because they can pay low wages there. When asked, she said she makes \$5 a day for an eight-hour work day. In Mexico, a gallon of milk costs \$4. One of our missionaries is a physical therapist and was able to work on her and gave her some pointers on how to alleviate the pain while working.

Our pediatric dentist noticed the kids' shoes. He saw that they were almost always too big and very worn. He figured they were an older brother's or sister's being handed down the line.

On the second day of the clinic, it was very cold and rainy. Looking at the ramshackle housing surrounding the clinic, one of the missionaries wondered how warm people could be in this weather. When she asked one of the Mexican people helping at the clinic, he said many houses did not have any heating or had inadequate heating. Many also did not have flooring other than dirt. This situation makes the gifts of warm hats and blankets all the more valuable as many people struggle to stay warm during the winter. She also understood why babies and young children wear so many layers of clothing—something that becomes apparent when they need to be taken off in order to be examined by the doctor.

The last night we shared a worship service with *Fuente de Vida Iglesia*. It was touching to join with them and be part of a vibrant service to worship the Lord and praise Him for all that happened over the weekend. Glen Allen made a point over the weekend that while we are short-term missionaries, since we bring a team to the same neighborhood three times a year, and since many of the missionaries have returned multiple times, we are doing long-term mission work. We are getting to know the people who come to the clinic, and they are coming to trust us. Some of them see our clinic doctors as "their doctor" because they're the only one they get to see. Our relationship with the church here deepens with each visit also. At the service, Glen spoke about how coming here feels like a family reunion. That felt especially true when during the service *Fuente de Vida* church members came up to each of us missionaries, touched us and prayed fervently in Spanish. Many of us did not understand the words spoken, but the Spirit of God surpasses all language barriers, and we were all one in the Lord at that moment.

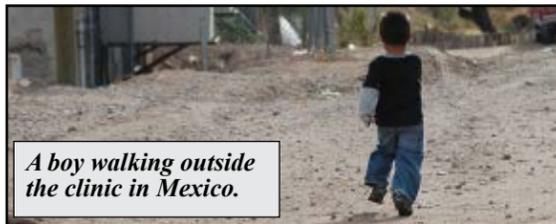
Lisa Kearsley

REVENUE:	AMOUNT	BUDGETED	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
Donations from Churches	\$32,171	\$39,417	\$(7,246)
Donations from Individuals	\$64,655	\$62,333	\$ 2,322
Church Membership Dues	\$1,125	\$1,833	\$( 708)
Other Revenue	\$8,084	\$8,113	\$( 29)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$106,035</b>	<b>\$111,696</b>	<b>\$(5,661)</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$107,628</b>	<b>\$112,879</b>	<b>\$(5,251)</b>
Net of Expense over Revenue	(\$1,593)		

Thanks to so many of you who love the Lord and have a heart for missions, we were able to bring our deficit of \$15,007, reported to you on our September newsletter, down to \$1,593! THANK YOU SO MUCH! We would like to end the year in the positive, so if God lays it on your heart to help with this shortage, it would be so appreciated as FaithWorks continues God's work in the coming months. Please remember that FaithWorks is a non-profit 501(c3) organization and that your donations are tax deductible.

In addition to the General Operating Fund we have received \$28,556 from Jan 1-Nov 30, 2013 in funds designated for special projects! These include our projects in Africa, Mexico, New Mexico, Alaska, the Navajo Reservation, and various other local mission projects. 100% of these funds go as requested to the designated projects.

Again, we thank you for your heart for missions and for reaching out to a needy, hurting world.



A boy walking outside the clinic in Mexico.



Here's a cute quote we just got the other day from Jennifer Youngberg about her daughter Abby who is 9 and has gone on numerous missions with us:

*"Yesterday at Sunday School they were talking to Abigail about things she could be when she grows up. One suggestion was a missionary. She thought to herself 'Well, I am already a missionary' so I need to think of something else!"*

Isn't that classic!!

### 2014 FAITHWORKS MISSIONS:

Below is a list of next year's mission trips. Details can be found in the Faithworks4us.org website (click on the "calendar" tab, then click on the date) or by looking at a 2014 brochure or by calling the FaithWorks office at 928-774-0504 or Jan Allen (trip coordinator) at 928-567-0092. Please remember they are filling up quickly, so it is best to sign up soon. We hope you will consider going "on mission" in 2014 with FaithWorks!

- January 25.....El Nathan Ministries, Flagstaff
- February 20-23.....Mexico Medical Mission, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- March 8.....The Olive Branch Ministries, Verde Valley
- May 3.....Camp Civitan, Williams
- May 22-25.....Mexico Medical Mission, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- June 15-21.....McCurdy Mission School, Espanola, New Mexico
- July 2 -17.....African Medical Ministry, Tanzania, East Africa
- August 2 -9.....Construction, children's and medical mission, La Fe, Honduras
- August 10 -18.....Alaska, partnering with Habitat For Humanity, Anchorage
- September 11-13.....Mexico Supply Mission, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- October 11.....Navajo Construction Mission, Leupp, Arizona
- November 20 -23.....Mexico Medical Mission, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- December 6.....The Navajo Children's Christmas mission, Leupp, Arizona

## TRANSPORTATION FOR PASTOR TEMBA: TANZANIA

As you may recall in our last newsletter, we were asking for prayers for a reliable means of transportation for Pastor Temba in Tanzania. He needs it for his ministry where he travels the Tanzanian jungles to meet with and provide help for the poor and the lame. He has been using a small motorcycle for the past 12 years, and it is beyond repairing now. He also suffers from arthritis, and riding a motorbike is very difficult for him, especially when he has to "tie" someone onto him on the back in order to transport them. Due to the overwhelming generosity of a few folks—and the blessings of the Lord—we are now able to purchase a brand new Suzuki Gypsy King pickup truck for him. This will enable him to continue reaching out to people in need and to transport them to the doctor and to the hospital when he needs to. It will be on the mission field in early January. What a wonderful Christmas present for Pastor Temba. It will also be used for the Havennature Retreat Center, which has a feeding station (i.e. soup-kitchen) for the elderly members in their church that FaithWorks has been providing for. And when FaithWorks mission teams arrive in Tanzania in 2014 and beyond, they will be able to use it for their travels.

Thank you to all who have contributed so generously to this project. You have blessed, in a great way, this wonderful man of God who loves his people so very much.

### FAITHWORKS SUPPORT

Yes, I want to help by...

- sending a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_to be used for \_\_\_\_\_
- sending \$\_\_\_\_\_monthly to help with on-going mission ministries.
- praying for you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_



The jeep we are buying for Pastor Temba.

## THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!

### Mission Trip Participants, October - December, 2013

**Navajo Reservation Mission Team, Leupp**—Glen & Jan Allen, Jim Bachus, Sharon Joseph, Jim & Stephanie Kreunen, Dave Tardiff, Terry & Willie Schick, Clint Miller & Joseph, Randy & Debbi Sealover

**Navajo Reservation Mission Team, Dilkon**—Jerry Korn, George & Debbie Ansbach, Michael & Sarah Combs, Chanell McRae, Jamie Donovan, Joe & Pam Hendrickson, Dottie McArthur, Bud & Barbara Parenteau

**Mexico Mission Team**—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Byron & Janet Allen, Dave & Gigi Sorenson, Norma McDowell, Linda VanDeren, Alan & Theresa Dowell, Lisa Kearsley, Steve & Vickie Lewis, Anita Oquita, Kathy Marvin

**Leupp Christmas party Mission Team**—Glen & Jan Allen, Michael & Sarah Combs, Chanell McRae, Jamie Donovan, Frank & Sandee Drake, Sergio, Angie, Roxy, Marley, & Beau Guerrero, Bud & Barbara Parenteau, Alan & Pat Purchase, Clint Miller, Jim Bachus, Sharon Joseph, Mary Kantor, Alan Adams

### Volunteer Staff

Jan Allen - Mission Trip Coordinator; Ilene Hodgin - Prayer Coordinator; Kelly Campbell - Financial Secretary; Polly Philpott - Treasurer; Lisa Kearsley - Editor, 'The Common Task'; Polly Philpott - Office Team Leader; Pete Piper and Kelly Campbell, Teddy Scott, Matt Harris, Marie Kieft, Barbara Bryant, Victoria Walgren, Ilene Harral-Hodgin, Jane Holden, Ray Henry, and Joni Zarlinga - Office volunteers; Roger Holden - Assistant

# The Common Task

a publication of

## FaithWorks

### Mission Statement

To unite the Christian community in mission ministry through providing opportunities for education, information, and practical mission experiences locally, nationally, and internationally.

#### Officers

President	Dave Sorenson
Vice President	Phil Off
Secretary	Linda Van Deren
Treasurer	Polly Philpott
Prayer Coordinator	Ilene Harral-Hodgin
Executive Director	Glen Allen

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#### OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

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#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm; Friday 9 am - noon

*People at the FaithWorks office sorting the hundreds of gifts we received for the Christmas mission at the Navajo Reservation.*



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