

THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

FAITHWORKS

March 2013

MISSIONS: WHAT CAN YOU BUY WITH A WIDOW'S MITE?

I've never seen a "widow's mite," have you? I'm told that actually, a rare few still exist in museums. The tiny coin is from Roman Empire times—the size of a fingernail, paper thin, nowadays black from age and jagged, worth a fraction of a penny in New Testament Jerusalem. Today, it would be valued at \$29.95—I guess that's 2000 years of inflation! Wouldn't it be cool to own a coin from Jesus' time?

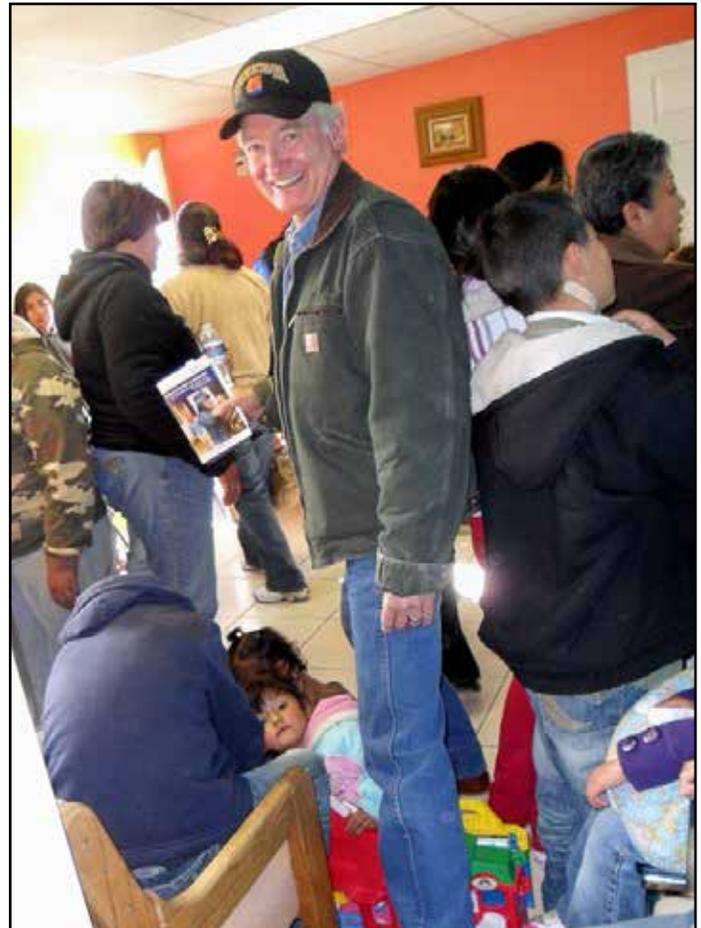
The little account is in *Mark 12:38-40*. Jesus was teaching in the church of his day, warning against some men—preacher/lawyer types—likely within earshot: *"They like to walk around in flowing robes and be greeted in the marketplaces and have ... places of honor at banquets. They devour widow's houses and for a show, make lengthy prayers. Such men will be punished most severely."*

The Bible continues that Jesus sat down to watch as "church" members put in their offerings. Rich folks threw in bags of money. Then here came this woman wearing the characteristic black of a widow, symbolic of her recent devastating loss, putting in her two small coins, worth so little. Yet, Jesus praised her to his faith/action students: *"I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They gave out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on."* vv. 43-44.

Makes me wonder about my mission-giving. Does it you? This passage in the Gospel is all about "sacrificial" giving—what we have left after we've given is as important to Jesus as what we give.

Am I sacrificing time, talent and money in wanting the Good News of Christ to go out into the whole world? Is there something I could have for me or does the Lord want me to give it up for His purposes? A day of my time? The tools and know-how that God has given to me? That extra money I wasn't expecting?

Look at it this way. Today's worth of that widow's coin—\$29.95—would support a child in Tanzania for a month. Still another example: count the total cost of any mission trip. Divide it by \$29.95. That's how many children could be supported for a month if you were to stay home and give that money to a child sponsorship abroad.



So, let's be frank. If you're going on a mission trip to just paint a house or conduct a clinic, wouldn't it be wiser to just send the money to provide wages so folks could earn a salary over there doing those things?

It's more complicated than that, isn't it? How much is your presence worth on the mission field? The love of Jesus flowing directly through you—how much is that worth?

Thanks to each of you for all your mission endeavors—praying, giving, and going—in a sacrificial way, a "widow's mite" of today to bring joy to the heart of Jesus.

On Mission With You,

Glen Allen,
Executive Director, FaithWorks

EL NATHAN MINISTRIES, FLAGSTAFF

On January 19 *FaithWorks* had its first mission of 2013, and it was right here in Flagstaff! *El Nathan Campground and Ministries* was founded in 1935 as a Bible camp for shepherd's children on the reservations north of Flagstaff. It was a very much used and sought after place for kids to go for the summer to learn about Jesus and just have fun. Through the years it has changed hands and had lost its attraction. Now under the new leadership of Jeff Dudenhoffer from Copper Island Retreat Center in a very remote part of Vancouver, Canada, it is springing to life once more. He brings a lot of energy, vision, and God's love to El Nathan and hopes to bring it back to life!

FaithWorks helped in restoring just a part of that vision on our one-day mission. We painted the inside of their run-down chapel and did a few other tasks.

Fourteen pay-your-own-way volunteers from five different churches gathered together to perform these tasks. Men, women and children ranging in ages from 7 - 70+ made this a great day in which to return some of the love that El Nathan has given through the years. If you would like to know more about El Nathan, please check them out on their website at www.elnathanaz.org. They offer cabins, retreats and meals and can accommodate up to 150 folks overnight. It is a beautiful place right in the middle of Flagstaff at 3910 E. El Paso Dr., across from the



The grounds at El Nathan ministries.



Glen starts the day with a devotion.



Jan and Alex work as a painting team.



Many painters go to work in the chapel.

FAITHWORKS NEEDS:

We are in need of the following for our various mission sites:

- 2 exam lamps for exam rooms in Mexico clinic (as seen in your own exam rooms here in the USA).
- Senior nutritional drinks (Ensure, etc.)
- Baby clothes (in good condition)
- Ongoing needs of vitamins (children's, adults, and prenatal)
- Over the counter medicines like Ibuprofen, Tylenol, antacids, eye drops
- Used eye glasses (especially readers)
- Beanie Babies
- An electrician to trouble-shoot circuits/outlets at Agua Prieta Medical Clinic in Mexico

Optional needs: Utility reimbursement for *FaithWorks* office space in Flagstaff

Much prayer...

Can you help us with any of these needs? If so, please drop them off, mail them to us, or contact us at 928-774-0504 if you can help. Any assistance would be appreciated!

A NEW FAITHWORKS PICK UP!

God is good! When? All the time!

FaithWorks has been blessed with the means to purchase a new \$23,500 truck for the many, many miles that we are on mission. After anticipating the need for a new vehicle, we have been saving for it and were blessed to be able to buy, with cash, a brand new 2012 Nissan Frontier. Also, a well-known sign company in Flagstaff, Sign-A-Rama, donated new door signage. It looks wonderful! The Lord does provide when the need is great. Thank you to all who prayed, gave and, in a sense, will "ride" in the new *FaithWorks* truck as we utilize it to bless many people in the years to come.



NEW TRAILER!

Again, *FaithWorks* was blessed by a donated, 8' X 16' work/utility trailer by Phil and Paula Off. This trailer will surely come in handy as a work trailer for our Navajo Reservation ministry. It is now being outfitted for the type of work we will be doing on the reservation. This trailer has had a long history of helpful ministry in their *Habitat for Humanity* ministry, specifically in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. Thank you again to Phil and Paula for their most generous gift!



Abby enjoys painting a wall.

WHAT IF WE HAD NEVER GONE?

The most recent Mexico Medical Mission trip to Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico almost never happened. Plagued with transportation issues, unusual expensive Mexico Vehicle Insurance problems, sickness, Mexico customs permits, and a raging snowstorm—the 17-member team of medical professionals and helpers struggled to “make it happen!” But, remembering the missions adage, “Act as if it were impossible to fail,” we pressed on to launch our 28th medical mission to Mexico in 12½ years. Our goal: to conduct a medical, dental, and free optometry clinic, serving two different churches in needy areas where both availability and affordability of medical care is an issue for many poor people in Northern Mexico.

The 17 short-term missionaries from 10 different churches arrived at the Mexican Border laden with loads of donated items for crossing over to bless many in this city of 200,000. We were carrying 200 warm wool blankets, 250+ Beanie Babies, clothes for women & children, 3 wheelchairs, thousands of dollars of medicines, 1500 pair of eye glasses and \$1200 for Pastor Gela Lopez’s salary support.

To make a long story short, two days later we had treated 211 medical patients, given 81 people dental treatments, and had examined, prescribed and distributed eye glasses to 246 optometry patients. A total of 538 people were touched in two days! The on-site pharmacy

that we supply & staff had dispensed medication worth thousands of dollars in value along with donated vitamins given to each patient and family.

It was all FREE. We never charge for items or care that we give out to these people, the poor of the poorest in the ram-shackled neighborhood we serve.

Every mission trip there in the spirit of Matthew 25 brings its own rewards. Lives are being saved. Our healthcare providers find life-threatening diseases or injuries in their patients: the little 3-year-old girl who had a massive cataract which, left undiscovered and untreated could have left her blind in that eye within one year; the man with an advanced malignant melanoma on his cheek, if not treated could be fatal.

We see changed lives too. Our missionaries grow spiritually by leaps and bounds—seeing the Gospel in practical action! The young Mexican “20-something” Christians who are becoming dynamic leaders in their church and changing their part of the world. They initiated a street drama and music performance in the little dirt trail of a road where those 246 optometry patients were waiting in line, and afterward 29 people made the decision to open their hearts to Jesus Christ then and there!

All the above and so much more good that we don’t even know about would never have happened if we had never gone. Thanks to each of you for your prayers, giving and going to make missions like this really happen!



A long line forms outside the clinic as people wait to see the optometrist.



Two eye patients have their vision checked to find the right glasses.



Pastor Gela takes this opportunity to share the Gospel with the group.



The 28th Mexico Medical mission team.



Linda takes a patient's blood pressure before seeing the doctor.



Bill and Shannon distribute medications from our pharmacy of donated items.



Dr. Rick Morgan visits a patient on a house call near the clinic, donating her a wheelchair.

To see more of these and Mexico's mission trip pictures in color, as well as pictures of many other mission trips, visit www.faithworks4us.org.

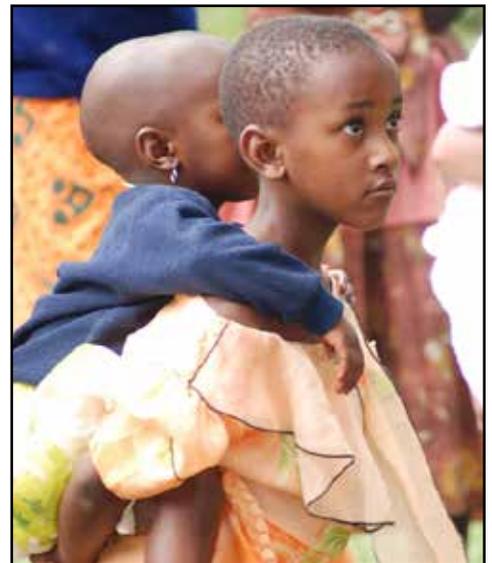
Cancellation of African Medical Mission

We are very sorry to say we have had the painful decision of canceling the medical mission to Tanzania for 2013.

The main reasons are two-fold:

1. We simply did not get a "critical-mass," a sufficient number of persons to go to make the trip cost effective.
2. We were unable to obtain a doctor or provider with sufficient leadership skills and expertise to lead the team in Africa.

Please continue to pray for our friends in Africa—they desperately need your prayers and support.



FAITHWORKS FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND JAN 1 - FEB 28, 2013

REVENUE:	AMOUNT	BUDGETED	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
Donations from Churches	\$3,811	\$7,167	\$(3,356)
Donations from Individuals	\$7,376	\$11,333	\$(3,957)
Church Membership Dues	\$450	\$333	\$ 117
Other Revenue	\$2,430	\$1,475	\$ 955
Total Revenue	\$14,067	\$20,308	\$(6,241)
OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$19,410	\$20,507	\$(1,097)

Net of Expense over Revenue (\$5,343)

We appreciate so much each of you who contributes so faithfully to *FaithWorks*. We are running quite short for the 2 month period of Jan 1-Feb 28 with expenses exceeding revenues by \$5,343. We have been able to keep our expenses below budget for the 2-month period by \$1,097, but our revenues are also below budget by \$6,241. If God puts it on your heart to help with this shortage, it would be so appreciated as *FaithWorks* continues His 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 \$2,259 from Jan 1-Feb 28, 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.



New stuffed animals for a girl at the Mexico clinic.



A girl shows us her new eyeglasses.

VITAL STATISTICS (SINCE FOUNDING JUNE 2000)

Missionaries sent out	2,561
Number of Mission Trips	142
Value of donated labor, medicines, and materials	\$1,430,153

BIBLES AT COCONINO COUNTY JAIL

Glen and Jan have been in contact with *Gideons' International* about placing Bibles in the Coconino County Jail in Flagstaff, after we received a request for them. On Thursday, Feb. 28, Mr. Jacob VanRoekel of the Sedona Gideon's Camp delivered 100 New Testaments for men, 50 for women and 50 in Spanish to the jail. We are thrilled to have been able to help in this way.

Jesus said, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

— John 13:35

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 _____

CAMPBELL'S SOUP LABELS AND BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION

FaithWorks collects Campbell's soup labels and Box Tops for Education to send to McCurdy Mission School in Espanola, New Mexico. The school then uses them for educational materials and even the purchasing of new vans for the school! A van costs 1.6 million points, and they are currently at 1,179,898!

Please clip the labels and box tops and send them to the *FaithWorks* mailing address and we will then send them on to McCurdy. Thank you.

DISAPPOINTMENT....

Just as the newsletter was going to print we received word that Winnes Masawe and Pastor Robert Temba in Tanzania, Africa were denied VISAS for the second time. We have been trying to bring them to Arizona since last May, and twice they have been denied VISAS. They are terribly disappointed as we are too. We had them scheduled to speak in churches, stay in homes and just be here to "tell their story" of how *FaithWorks* is trying to help them in Africa. Please remember these two wonderful Godly men in your prayers. Thank you.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!

Mission Trip Participants, January - February, 2013

El Nathan Mission Team, Flagstaff—Glen & Jan Allen, Bud & Barb Parenteau, Alan & Alex Purchase, Terry & Willie Schick, Ken, Jennifer, & Abigail Youngberg, Billy Martin, Phil & Paula Off

Mexico Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Steve & Vickie Lewis, Dave & Gigi Sorenson, Faye Willis, Norma McDowell, Linda VanDeren, Rick & Desiree Morgan, Ken Jeffers, Henry McLaughlin, Alan & Pat Purchase, Bill & Shannon Bradel

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 - 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	Bob Norton
Secretary	Linda Van Deren
Treasurer	Polly Philpott
Prayer Coordinator	Ilene Hodgins
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9-3

In-kind donations are welcome during office hours; please call office before bringing in large donations. Thank you!



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