

THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

FAITHWORKS

March 2017

THE MEDICINE OF LIFE

Recently, it was our unparalleled joy to deposit, from the Stan Williams Estate, a gift in the amount of \$117,381!

Stan was my dear friend of over 20 years. We met either for breakfast, lunch or “just coffee” at least once a week for all those years when we were both in town.

It has taken over 2 ½ years for the estate probate to close in Colorado and Arizona where Stan had business interests. This surprising, generous gift to the Lord’s work was just one half of the end-of-probate amount – the other was to his home church in Peetz, Colorado.

Stan lost his battle with cancer in June 2014. I miss him terribly even after all this time. Friends like him are hard to come by in this life. He was a Colorado native, having lived and worked on multi-sections of sprawling, dryland wheat farming acreage in the Sterling, Colorado area where he and his brother Rod ran the operations of wheat and wind farming on top of the ground and natural gas pipeline transfer under the ground.

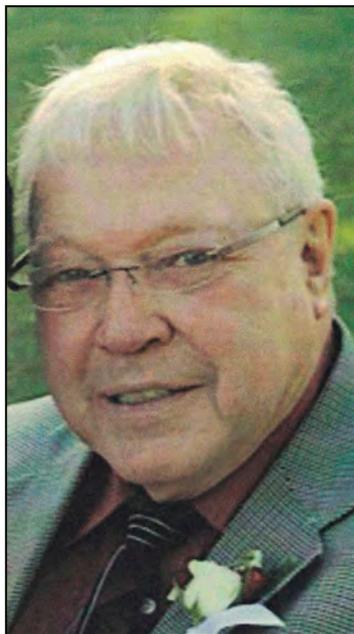
Stan was a brilliant old-school farmer, land developer, gifted businessman and investor. He spent a number of years developing and selling condominiums in Denver. Consequently, he could converse about almost anything, from telling of boyhood experiences on the farm to “welding techniques” to world travel!

We met shortly after he moved to Flagstaff. He was busy with a number of construction projects – developing the design and lay-out of a planned community up north on the Hopi Indian Reservation, designing and supervising the construction of Sawmill Park by the Flagstaff Police Station, and consulting for a KCS Construction job at Northern Arizona University.

Stan was a genius for “inventing.” If he saw something wasn’t working, he made it so that it would! Once I remember that he was repeatedly unhappy that his laptop computer wouldn’t sit properly on his Chevy Tahoe’s steering wheel while he had to do his daily computing on the worksite in Winslow. So, he went to his workshop, designed and welded up an aluminum rod-like “rack” that fit perfectly down over the steering wheel, just

right for his use!

He loved to travel throughout the West – in his RV with his boat to Lake Powell – on Amtrak to Santa Fe at Christmas – to old-west mining towns in Nevada.



Stan grew up in the little Methodist church in Peetz, Colorado, where his mother taught Sunday school. She also taught him by word and example. He never talked about her that he didn’t have a tear in his eye. He learned about Jesus Christ as his Savior and Lord and developed a heart for reaching out to the poor, sick, and disabled. Every time before I left to lead a Medical Mission to Mexico or Africa, Stan would quietly slip a \$100 bill into my hand and say “Just use it however you need it.” Now, with his overwhelming generous estate gift of \$177,381, our Board of Directors is thoughtfully deliberating its best use to follow the simple guideline his brother gave when sending the check: “...to help a lot of people.”

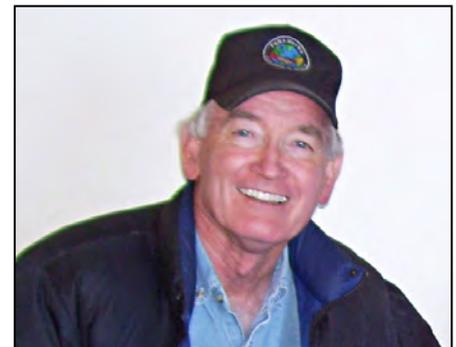
I’ve learned so very much from my longtime, loyal friend! I try to practice in particular, just one of his wise pieces of counsel, given to him by his dad, “Always have something growing while you’re sleeping.” I’ve found that is true whether you’re rotating garden veggies in spring planting or following the advice of your financial advisor.

During the Intertestamental period of the Bible, a very wise man is recorded as saying, “A faithful friend is the medicine of life.” (*Ecclesiasticus 6:16*)

Nowadays, I sure do miss that medicine in my life even after all this time.

STILL on mission with you,

Glen



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.

Board of Directors, Officers

President	Bob Norton
Vice President	Linda VanDeren
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PHYSICAL LOCATION

1501 West Forest Meadows St.
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(inside Woodlands Village Storage Unit area)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm; Friday 8:30 - 11:30 am

JANUARY MISSION TRIP “SNOWED UNDER!”

Both the El Nathan Ministries mission trip dates of January 23 and the postponed re-scheduled date of Feb. 4 had to be cancelled due to the extremely heavy snowfall in Flagstaff. We had a full 10-member building fix-up team enlisted, but for the safety of the team as well as consideration for extra costs to the site for snow removal, we had to cancel.



The entrance to El Nathan Camp Ministries.



Some of our 50” of snow from Christmas eve to January 23!

THE ALASKA MISSION, AUGUST 26-SEPT. 3

This family-friendly team of up to 15 persons will travel to Anchorage, then to Birchwood Camp in Chugiak, Alaska. The team will be doing “camp fix-up” for a camp that is used by adults and youth year round. There could be painting, cleaning, wood-cutting, gardening, roofing etc. A deposit of \$200 is needed no later than May 1. The Fee is \$450, which does not include airfare.

Also, we still have room on our upcoming one-day mission trips to the **Olive Branch** on March 18th and the **Flagstaff Family Food Bank** on April 8th. A full list of 2017 trips is on the next page of this newsletter, and a description of the trips is available on-line at faithworks4us.org, or you can call our office at 928-567-0092 for more information and registration forms.

We hope to see you on mission!



Children coloring at the Medical Mission Trip.

Mission Trips for 2017

January 21 - El Nathan Ministries, Flagstaff
Painting and fix-up.

February 16-19 - Mexico Medical Mission
2-day clinic in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.

March 18 - The Olive Branch, Rimrock, AZ
Fix-up and repairs.

April 8 - Flagstaff Family Food Bank
Fix-up and repairs.

May 18 -21 - Mexico Medical Mission
2-day clinic in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.

June 17 - Indian Bible College, Flagstaff
Fix-up and repairs.

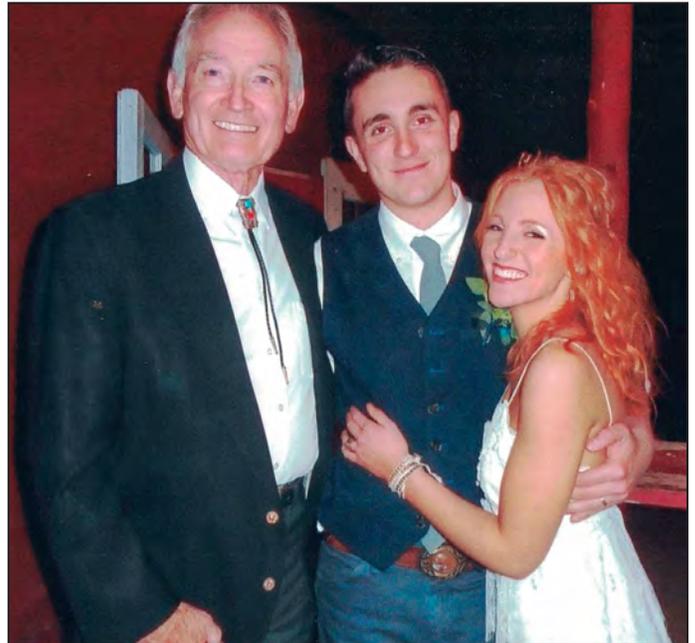
August 26-Sept 3 - Chugiak, Alaska
Fix-up and repairs at Birchwood Camp.

September 7-9 - Mexico Supply Mission
Deliver and arrange medical supplies to Agua Prieta.

September 30 - Navajo Mission, Leupp, AZ
Working on homes and churches on the Reservation.

November 9-12 - Mexico Medical Mission
2-day clinic in Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.

December 2 - The Navajo Children's Christmas Mission, Leupp, AZ. We will provide gifts, dinner and the love of Christ on the Navajo Reservation.



Brooke & Hayley Wiley. Brooke “grew up” in FaithWorks, coming with his parents on mission trips from age 7. Glen had the privilege of officiating their wedding at Pioneer Village in Phoenix on December 20, 2016.

They will make their new home in Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where Brooke is in U.S. Army Special Forces training.

NOTES FROM MISSIONERS

Hello to all of the team! Thank you for your faithfulness in sending me your newsletters! I read them all and remember the times I was with you so many years ago...and I pray for you and the work that is getting done and the people ministered to and the children reached! Keep up the good work. I have to give up driving this year because my mind has slowed down and my tracking skills are disappearing! But I am still able to pray for you and I want to send this little token of appreciation for keeping me in the loop. I pray for those I know there and for all the others who are such good helpers! Love to all, Gabby

Dear Jan, What a fun, joyous celebration we had today! Thank you soooooo much for your wondrous planning. I'm praising the Lord's orchestration of the day. His works are awesome! Riding with Connie was such a fun bonus! Truly was a fun day! Bless you and Glen for your dedication and service to our Lord. Love in Jesus, Marilyn. PS I ate too much!

It was great meeting all of you on Saturday. That is what Christmas is all about! It opened my eyes to know that we have a mission field on our own back yard with these dear brothers and sisters. I look forward to helping those people out and going back next year for Christmas...It was a great day for me. Amy

I praise God for calling me to mission with all of you lovely sisters and brothers. What a joy to have my granddaughter be with Michael and me. Her take on the mission: "I had fun!" And so did I! What a blessing we have in Faith Works. Merry Christmas to all, Karen.

SOUTH OF THE BORDER...DOWN MEXICO WAY

The international news of the relationship between the US and Mexico has captured the attention of so many lately, yet even with this renewed focus, the facts of everyday life in Mexico are often unknown to most people in the U.S.

We returned last week from our February 16-19 Mexico Medical Mission, our 44th Mexico mission in 17 years. Since 2004, we have repeatedly traveled to Mexico to serve the very poor of Colonia Empacadora in Agua Prieta. Life is hard there. Most people we touch are in grinding poverty every day, and many live in wood pallet, scrap-tin-roofed hovels.

Our 14 member team of doctors, providers, nurses and support personnel discovered two important updates on the "Mexico situation." First, the continued devaluation of the peso against the dollar is depriving families of purchasing power for food and necessities of life. The exchange rate has sunk to 19 pesos to one US dollar. It was 11 to 1 when we started there in 2004, so the peso has lost almost half its value in just 13 years. Second, the federalized gas company, Pemex, recently decided to dramatically raise the price of gasoline, causing many Mexican citizens already straining to meet their budget to park their cars and walk or bike to work and school. One church leader told me, "The price was raised to keep paying top executives in the gas company their ridiculously high salaries!"

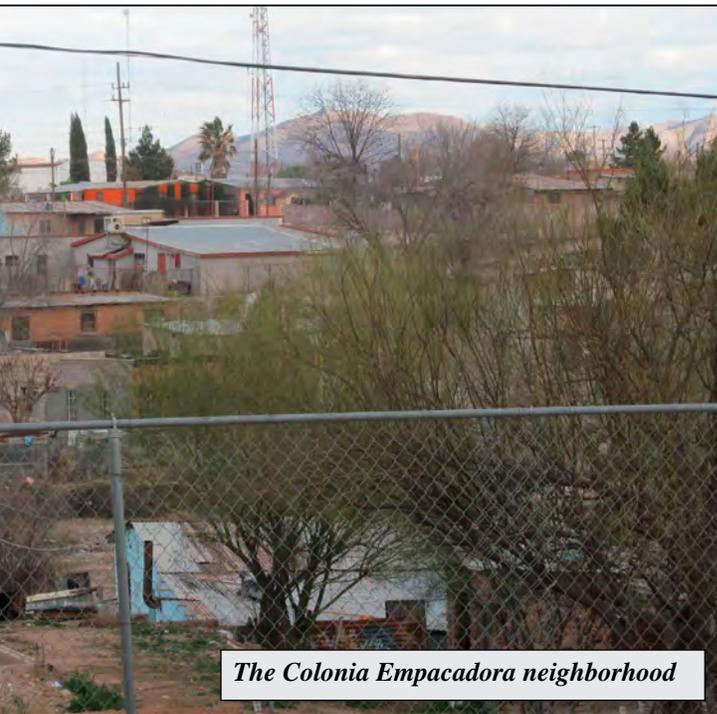
So, the everyday, decent, hard-working Mexican is hurting and feeling betrayed by their government. They can't see any change, although they try. Local gas station operators in Tijuana staged a protest after the meteoric rise in gas prices by closing all their stations, bringing a halt to auto travel.

Into all that, and knowing the difficulties, we were sent by the Lord to serve, listen and encourage by showing God's love and bringing hope. In the two days of clinic, we treated 153 medical and physical therapy patients, 197 optometry patients, and our Mexican dental partner saw 79 patients, bringing the total of patients "touched" to 429! In addition, we brought donations of clothing, blankets, baby clothes and household items to give away.

What a joy to watch our team of Christian Americans, all 14 from 9 different churches serve in Jesus' love. In addition to the totally free medical treatment (it costs us almost \$1000 each trip for medicines alone) and each paying their own way (\$295), the team dug deeper to purchase over 40 lbs. of freshly-roasted coffee, made by the local church, all of which helps support their ministry which sponsors the clinic aptly named Fuente de Vida y Amor - Fountain of Life and Love.

To see these and more pictures in color, visit www.faithworks4us.org.





The Colonia Empacadora neighborhood



GOD'S ABUNDANT FINANCIAL PROVISION IN 2016 – BEST EVER!

Because of your faithful, sacrificial giving throughout the year, 2016 will hit the record books for FaithWorks Christians in Mission!

When the books were closed December 31st, the grand total of all operating expense gifts received was \$136,503! For December alone, God's provision for our ministry was \$129, 881 – more than our entire operating expense budget for 2015!

Thank you – Thank you – Thank you!!

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Budgeted Jan 1 – Jan 31, 2017	\$9,690
Amount Received to Date	\$7,156
Balance Needed	\$(2,534)

Starting a new year is always exciting with anticipation of the great things that God is going to do through FaithWorks! There are eleven mission trips planned plus various other projects. We completed the Africa Chicken project in January and continue to send support for the needy and sick in Africa. We have three medical trips to Mexico planned, a construction trip to Alaska, and several local mission trips planned. Will you help FaithWorks financially, with prayer, and possibly participation on a trip this year? Please pray about including FaithWorks in your budget, in your prayers, and as a place to serve Our Lord.

FAITHWORKS WISH LIST:

“COME ON OVER AND HELP US” (ACTS 16:9)

- A Monday afternoon office volunteer, 12-2pm
- A Large screen TV for Board meetings and mission team training.
- A volunteer with transportation in the Flagstaff area to help pick up and distribute ministry items (food, clothing, etc.)
- Donation of \$100/month to assist us with storage of mission-field items until distribution.
- Prayer and support for our Africa, Mexico and Navajo Mission Ministries.

Can you help us with any of these needs? If so, please contact us—any assistance would be appreciated!

We praise God for health and safety for all the travel necessary for the office and mission team members!

TO THE MALL OR...?

One of our dear missionaries some time ago said something that lingers long with me. She happens to live out of town on the extreme east side of Flagstaff. “I was thinking, I can drive 20 minutes in either direction to two very different places – the Mall – or the Reservation!” Just 23 miles northeast of Flagstaff is the site of our Navajo ministry of the last 10 years.

While we have a construction ministry in the fall and host a great Christmas celebration ministry in December, few people know of our on-going-year-round support of Christian work there. We always respond to their requests for prayer for health needs, protection and survival from the effects of rampant alcohol and drug abuse. We make regular runs out to take donated clothing and household items including wood for heat. We support pastor Dean and Lola Bahe and have delivered food and goods to the Senior Center in Leupp.

We continue to work with “Solar Ovens Partners” in South Dakota to supply solar ovens and training on their use by the Navajos.

An opportunity for Christian Mission – 20 miles away! It's our prayer that this ministry will continue to survive and thrive. If you would like the opportunity to volunteer to help when needed, please call Glen at 928-821-1073.



Our Navajo Nation neighbors. Leupp, Arizona

THE DONKEY IS STILL KICKING!

Do you remember when a few years back, we donated the brand-new 4-wheel drive vehicle to our African ministry partners? Pastor Robert Temba nicknamed it “The Donkey” based on that well known Bible story of Jesus saying to the disciples on the Thursday before Good Friday, “Go into the city and untie the donkey...” The donkey was His vehicle for riding triumphantly into Jerusalem.

The vehicle we donated and dedicated to our Africa ministry continues as an important tool for serving as an “ambulance” and cargo carrier.

Also, we’ve recently been privileged to send down the final payment for completing the “Chicken Project” there to provide eggs, meat and employment in that poverty-stricken area of northern Tanzania. That gift of \$7567 to Winnes Massawe, Director of Havenature was provided by the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. David Patton and their daughter Kelli Arrington. We’ve also been able to assist pastor Temba’s ministry to the elderly, sick and disabled in the amount of \$1000 to pay for “donkey” transportation to the hospitals nearby.

It’s a great feeling to know that, although we’ve not been able to send a short-term ministry team down the last couple years, the “donkey” is still kicking!



Pastor Temba and the donated vehicle.

ALL ABOUT FAITHWORKS

If you would like someone from FaithWorks to speak at your church/Bible Study/Sunday School/grouping just let us know – we’ll arrange it!

Glen will be presenting the FaithWorks Ministry to Prescott United Methodist Church, Wednesday, March 29, speaking to an all-church Brown-Bag lunch.

We’re eager to share how Christians across our state and various denominations can come together to share in “The Common Task” of fulfilling the Great Commission in Matthew 28: 16-20!

Call Glen at 928 821-1073.

VITAL STATISTICS (SINCE FOUNDING JUNE 2000)

Missionaries sent out	3254
Number of Mission Trips	184
Value of donated labor, medicines, and materials	\$1,767,768

“I have decided to make my life my argument.”
– Albert Schweitzer. 1875-1965 famed West Africa Missionary Surgeon.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!

Mission Trip Participants, January - February, 2017

Mexico Medical Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Camelia Gembala, Nina Poore, Linda VanDeren, Matt Wise, Julie Schneider; Henry McLaughlin, Gigi Sorenson, Mark & Denice Kriese, Ken & Dulce Jeffers

Volunteer Staff

Jan Allen - Mission Trip Coordinator; Ilene Harral-Hodgin - Prayer Coordinator; Kelly Campbell - Office Manager; Polly Philpott - Treasurer; Lisa Kearsley - Editor, ‘The Common Task’; George Stidham - Vehicle Maintenance Director; Office team: Pete Piper, Marie Kieft, Ilene Harral-Hodgin, Jane Holden, Bob Robertson, Kathie Coolidge, Linda VanDeren, Byron Allen, Jerry Korn, Bob Marsh, Alan Purchase, and Amy Casali



Christmas board of directors meeting at Little America – with a surprise guest!



Living the message on our FaithWorks shirts.

MAILING LIST UPDATE

In an effort to be good stewards of efforts and expense, we're regularly reviewing who's receiving *The Common Task* and all address information.

Please let us know if you have changed any of your mailing info and if you know of anyone who would like to receive this newsletter. Thank you.



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