

Foreign Mission Report

Our mission report for our Mexico and Guatemala missions was given last Sunday afternoon following a free meal prepared as a way to thank those who had donated their support for our mission efforts. Highlights included a video presentation of the Rio Bravo mission and mission testimonies from team members. Some highlights include:

- Medical team work with medicines given to patients
- Twice daily VBS and Sewing team work
- A casita (little home) that was built for a family
- Work with mountain villages
- A special emphasis on working with people subsisting on garbage pickings

We praise God that much was accomplished despite the nagging concerns about border closure and the pandemic!



Left to right and top to bottom: Dr. Lou Poole & Vitalino Méndez work with a medical patient; Kate Young, Suny Bean & Emily Young conduct VBS; orphans at Casa de Esperanza in Nuevo Progreso receive a library of Spanish children's books; the finished casita in Vamos Tamaulipas.

Upcoming Youth Activities

Our youth group is actively engaged in mission and ministry and wants to make an invitation for other youth to come and get engaged through fun and service. Here is a list of upcoming activities for the month of November:

- Sunday morning Bible study at 9:45 a.m. in our Family Life Center
- Wednesday evening Youth Group at 6:00 p.m. in our Family Life Center—we meet for snacks and activities.
- Sunday, November 7—Youth meal at noon in our Life Center with games & activities
- Saturday, November 20, 4:30 p.m.—Bonfire and cookout at pastor Méndez' home
- Thursday, November 25, 11 -1 —Youth Thanksgiving service opportunity as the youth help distribute and prepare take-out meals.

Ladies Potluck Brunch

Saturday, November 13, 10:00 a.m. the ladies of the church invite all of our women to come out for a special potluck brunch. This is a time of fellowship, good food, and a special program presented by Karen Yarbrough. Karen will show a video and share her experiences of living for three years in Saudi Arabia. Invite a friend to come with you. Teenagers are especially welcome, so bring your daughter, granddaughter or niece. Bring your favorite brunch food and enjoy this special ladies' morning out.

From the Pastor's Desk

I want to encourage each of you to be engaged with the activities at the church. Little by little we are reemerging from the toll that the pandemic and 13 months of non-Sanctuary worship took on our church. We still have people who haven't reengaged in worship with us, and due to health concerns some have not yet come back. Nevertheless, God's Spirit is moving within our church and I want you to be with us as God breathes new life into our ministries and fellowship. However, pray as to how God can use you to be a part of the growth. Here are some ways you can be actively pushing the church's work forward:

- Be with us this Sunday, October 31 as we celebrate All Saints Day and remember twelve of our own saints who passed away in this last year.
- Invite young families with children to church and introduce them to our children's Sunday school teachers.
- Invite youth to be active with our Youth Group.
- We are actively seeking volunteers to lead a twenties and thirties Bible study and fellowship.
- Call those you haven't seen at church in a while and encourage them.
- Volunteer to be a part of serving our Thanksgiving Day Community Meal.
- Help reignite our XYZ (Extra Years of Zest) ministry
- Take part in our Hanging of the Greens on Saturday, November 27 at 9 a.m.
- Invite friends to join us for our Christmas Cantata during our worship service on December 12.
- Volunteer to help light our Advent candles during the five Sundays of Advent.

I have been asked by many of you whether or not we will be having our annual Fall Festival for Halloween and a pre-Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner Fundraiser. Sadly, the answer is no for this year. Lingering concerns over viral transmission remain, and with the large crowds that attend both events it is best to default to protecting people from themselves. I too hate the idea of lessening our outreach and fellowship, but with a little more patience we will move beyond this inconvenience.

Please forgive me in advance, but I must also say that I am disappointed, but not surprised at how many pastors have chosen to expose their congregations to the risk of death and sickness, disregarding commonly accepted health suggestions to be a church that is proving they have more “faith” than those churches who require masks. Such nonsense fools some people, but where is their conscience when people fall ill? Can they continue to suggest that those who have fallen ill must have gotten the illness at work or school? I will get off my soap-box now, but I hope you all understand that our love for one another must always represent God’s love. The apostle Paul put it best, *“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.”* (1 Corinthians 13:4-8a)

November Birthday Celebrations

Larry Hodges	11/01
Amy Duncan	11/02
Brenda Ramey	11/02
Gus Ramey	11/02
Buster Berryhill	11/05
Newell Carter	11/05
Sherry Hicks	11/06
Taylor Lawrence	11/09
Lynn Balloun	11/11
Matthew Bean	11/13
Willie Sides	11/14
Haskel Hicks	11/16
Abbie Wilburn	11/18
Allison Chandler	11/19
Frank Jones	11/19
Marilyn Shay	11/19
Jennie Jones	11/21
Georgina Tatum	11/21
M.L. Childs, III	11/23
Janey Ryder	11/24
Mildred Wesley	11/27
Todd Carter	11/30
Woodrow Ramey	11/30
Steve Sheets	11/30