

The Mercy Journal

Missions: Reaching Out Beyond Our Walls

Volume I
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Did You Know?

The New Life Network is involved in many mission outreaches here in Charles County and around the world. Here are just a few examples.

Local

Catherine Foundation
Food Pantry
Helping Hands
Living Water
Safe Nights
Transitional Housing

International

Back to Back Ministries (Mexico)
Global Partners of the Wesleyan Church
IMPACTO (Guatemala)
Philippines
World Hope International (Zambia & Haiti)

Through the coming months we will be sharing more stories of the projects we are involved in with the hopes that one (or many) will touch your heart. Join with us in reaching out beyond the walls of the New Life Network!

To find out more about a specific mission ministry, contact Chris Wagnon at 301-609-8423.



Men's Ministry Warms Hearts and Homes

by Chris Wagnon

On Saturday, December 18th the New Life Network Men's Ministry sponsored a Firewood Cutting and Deliver event to assist some of our neighbors who use firewood as a means to keep warm. Armed with chainsaws, pickup trucks, trailers, a tractor and even an excavator (donated from Facchina Construction Company) approximately 25 men of all ages headed out to recently timbered land for a cold morning of fellowship and service.

A quick 10 truck loads of firewood were cut and delivered to several families in Charles County. Each family surprised by the unannounced delivery was delighted as the men unloaded the firewood, wished all a Merry Christmas and then sped on to the next family. What a great day of blessings!

Thanks to Bill Wultich and Pastor Chris Bryan for their leadership, to Skip Jorgensen for offering his property to cut wood, and to Paul Facchina, Jr. for his excavator and its operator. Thanks to all the men that came out to serve!

Food Drive Feeds 250 Families Plus!

by Julie Youmans

Most of us take for granted a trip to the grocery store for holiday meals. Imagine trying to celebrate the holidays with an empty cupboard. Thanks to the generous hearts of the New Life Network, over 250 needy families did not go without.

In October, the call for non-perishable items went out. Winter Peed who oversees the New Life Food Pantry has been organizing the Christmas Food drive for about six years. She and her volunteers kept running totals of the sorted food. Charles County Social Services provided a list of 250 families we could help. That's a lot of string beans!



Each family received boxes filled with a canned ham, makings for another dinner (spaghetti or tuna and helper) 4-6 cans of vegetables, soup, macaroni and cheese, cereal, peanut butter, jelly, fruit, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, stuffing, gravy and a dessert.

On the Wednesday before packing day we were short 125 boxes of cereal and 100 peanut butters and jellies. After an announcement during Saturday evening services, the counts exceeded the need. The Lord provides! There were over 100 extra cereals, peanut butters and jellies!

On box packing day, well over 100 volunteers came together in the Garage sanctuary and packed 500 boxes (2 per family) and did not run out of any item. The Garage Church kept everything running smoothly and stored the boxes until distribution day. Thanks to all who helped with the Christmas Food Drive!

Remember, the food pantry operates year round, so we will continue to accept food donations.

What Blessings!!!

Operation Christmas Child 259 Boxes Shipped to Children Worldwide

*Women's Christmas Tea Benefitting The Catherine Foundation
\$900 in Gift Cards and Donations in Addition to Clothing and Diapers*

*Zip Drive-Benefitting Orphans in Zambia
70 Instruments Collected, \$1,806.65 Donated for Mailing Costs*

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Building Buildings and Happy Feet Pacocorral Village, Guatemala December 4-11, 2010

by Denise Forshey

There comes to each of us a moment of sacred pause in our daily life. I had one recently on the side of a mountain in the village of Pacocorral, Guatemala. I journeyed there with a team of 16 from the New Life Network. Yet as I stood there in the midst of children, fellow team members and sheep, it felt as if I stood alone. I saw more than the beauty that filled my vision. I saw the hand of my Creator.

While the breathtaking views of God's creation are stunning and immense, in Pacocorral it was the smiles of little children, the strength of men and women



building a home and a community caring for each other that took my breath away. This trip was different than most short term mission trips. Instead of spending the entire week in one place we knew that we had only two days before we moved on to another town. Two days didn't seem long enough to accomplish much, but with God's help we were able to...

- Build two cement additions
- Lovingly wash the faces and feet of close to two hundred children
- Provide those children with shoes and "stockings" filled with little surprises.

We accomplished much and yet, in all that we accomplished only one task was lasting.

For we know that houses can collapse; shoes are outgrown and toys may break and therein hides my sacred pause. Even the immense and looming beauty of God's physical creation does not promise eternity. Volcanoes erupt and mountains crumble. Oceans rage and beaches succumb. Even our very

lives are "but a breath" here today and gone tomorrow. On the top of that mountain I stood captured in time realizing that even as beautiful as the mountains were that loomed before me, tomorrow they could be gone. Tomorrow we could be gone. There was the crux of our mission trip. Not the house building or Happy Feet.

Our mission was to share the grace and mercy of Christ to those we came to love. We were to trumpet the call of our Savior. We each did it differently. We all did it corporately. On that mountain in Pacocorral, Guatemala we left something for eternity – brothers and sisters in Christ.

We'll be reporting in our next issue of The Mercy Journal on the upcoming Guatemala Medical Mission trip scheduled for January 29 - February 5. For information on items still needed for this trip, please contact Karen Fenner at 301-934-2512.



A Home \$1,800... Food for a Month \$50 Mangagoy, Bislig City, Philippines

by Tom Brady

On December 11, 2010, New Life participated in a festive event held by Couples for Christ (CFC) in the Philippines. New Life Church has partnered with the CFC organization since 2007 to bring relief and the Word of God to 138 families who lost their homes to a fire that ravaged the entire Fisherman's Village in 2006.

The event was characterized by choirs leading carols, food donations, and prayerful thanks to the Lord. New Life donated money to buy 50lb sacks of rice to be distributed to the homes in the village, enough to feed a family for an entire month. With our funds, combined with locally collected donations, CFC was also able to provide rice to 56 homeless families.

Last summer we collected new quality clothing which was shipped in September for arrival by December. CFC created "Bundles of Joy" with the clothing to distribute to parents and children of the Fisherman's Village families at the same December 11 event. Many children own only the clothes they were wearing, so this was a joyous event indeed.

Lastly, CFC held a contest for the most beautiful yard in Fisherman's Village. Local volunteers from CFC worked over two months to help the residents improve the appearance of their homes, inside and out, instilling personal pride. Four cash awards



given out, but after two months of working together, all were winners.

The New Life family has

donated funds for 17 of the 82 modest concrete block homes constructed by CFC. With local labor donated, the cost of one of these homes is \$1,800 US\$. There are still many homeless families in the Fisherman's Village. If you would like to build someone a home, feed someone for a month, or help with shipping costs of donated items, contact Chris Wagon at 301-609-8423.

Psalm 121

1. I lift up my eyes to the hills- where does my help come from? 2. My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. 3. He will not let your foot slip-he who watches over you will not slumber; 4. indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. 5. The Lord watches over you-the Lord is your shade at your right hand; 6. the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. 7. The Lord will keep you from all harm-he will watch over your life; 8. The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.