

The Mercy Journal

Missions: Reaching Out Beyond Our Walls

A Publication of The New Life Network
New Life, Garage and Kneeling Point Churches

Volume IV October 2011



Casa Hogar Douglas in Monterrey, Mexico September 5, 2011

by Pastor Michael Rogalski

Navigating institutional life is seldom easy. The unwritten code of who's in and who's out screams loudly through subtleties. Whether it's through a disapproving glance, not being picked for the team, or being picked on because some kids are mean, orphanage life is tough.



Some of the 100+ Children in Mexico Eating a Healthy Meal During the Feeding Program

Two brothers have been quickly yet painfully learning this code over the past two weeks. New to the communal life of an orphanage, Haysus is 14 and his younger brother, Juan de Dios is 12. They are both tall, with protruding ears, and considerably darker skinned than the 67 other kids at the children's home. Watching the demeaning behavior from certain other kids reminded me that racism and prejudice is not just an American travesty. As our team finished cooking, it was a good time to pray, so we all thanked God for His bounty. With heads bowed and hands folded, I was

curious to see how God would show up this evening.

As the food line got loaded up with kids, a few of our sweat-soaked church members served up generous portions of salchichas (Mexican hot dogs), pico de gallo, and tortillas. Despite the plethora of kids, God did His

thing again and there were plenty of salchichas left after every child and adult worker came through the line. I was intrigued with the return of Haysus to the food line numerous times for seconds, thirds, fourths, and then I simply lost count. Over and over again, our team kept serving up spoonfuls of sustenance to Haysus. He was so hungry. Not only for acceptance, confidence, and safety, but for those satisfying

salchichas. As some of staff and food workers playfully joked with him about his cavernous reservoir called his stomach, Haysus finally let a grin eek out. He was satisfied and seemingly experiencing some peace.

I was reminded of the words of our Lord Jesus in Matthew 25 when he said, "I was hungry and you gave me something to eat."



Pastor Michael serving Haysus

That's Jesus speaking about Jesus. He is simply saying that when someone is hungry and you feed them, you're feeding Jesus. As a pastor, it was a proud moment to see our people serving Haysus.

The message to me couldn't have been more clear. Do you know the English equivalent of Haysus? Jesus. That was Jesus both literally and figuratively. Hungry then full. Empty then satisfied. How? A few obedient servants willing to leave their comfort zone, sacrifice a little, and serve.

I'm thankful I got to see Jesus this night.



Crowd participation in the story of David and Goliath

Life's Most Urgent Question Is: What Are You Doing For Others?

Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Karen Fenner

It is a goal of the New Life Network to help those in need. We just need to prayerfully consider what God is calling us to do for others. Often, it will require us to get out of our comfort zone and trust the Lord as He directs the path we are to follow. It is a journey of service that may take us to the home right next door or to a country across the ocean.

The New Life Network is sponsoring an opportunity to serve on a Medical Mission Trip in February/March 2012 in the beautiful country of Guatemala.

If you think that you need a

medical background to go on this trip, you would be wrong! While we do need those who have medical skills, we also need many helping hands willing to serve. If you are able to give a hug, offer a smile and share some time then we need you! Often some of the best "medicine" we can share doesn't come in a liquid, a pill or a shot but rather in the simple act of love.

If you are unable to join us on this trip but would still like to help, we will be collecting over the counter medications in early February. Please watch the bulletin for more information.



A Call to be World Christians

**Why Doesn't God Do
Something?
(Part 3 of 3)**

by Curtis Cecil

It can be easy to come away after seeing the suffering, poverty, disease and hunger of the world and ask, "Why does God allow such things to happen?" Turn that around as Christ might be trying to get us to do. "Why are we, HIS people, allowing such things to happen to our neighbors?"

Who is the voice of Jesus today? Who are HIS hands and feet; HIS voice? As believers in Christ we are HIS body. Together we must show HIS compassion; together we must express HIS voice. Together we can do amazing things to build

an awareness that enables change. One person can make a difference, but a multitude can make a lasting change.

Guatemala Medical Mission Trip

February 25-March 3, 2012

Approximate Cost: \$1,500.00

Information Meeting:

October 23, 2011 in the Chapel at 6pm.

All are welcome.

POC: Karen Fenner

Iam1Kluelessmom@aol.com

(301) 934-2512

Thank You New Life Network!

Your generosity in August filled this pickup truck with desperately needed school supplies for children in Charles County!



We All Have a Story

New Orleans Mission Trip 2011

by Denise Forshey

In the days since I returned from the mission trip to New Orleans, I have been asked if the experience is different in the United States vs in another country. The quick answer would be yes.

In New Orleans, we spoke the same language. We could go to Walgreens to pick up supplies. We had an abundance of meal options and safe water to drink. It was too easy to stay in touch with our family back in Maryland. In many ways, it was different and yet, in many ways, it was a similar experience.

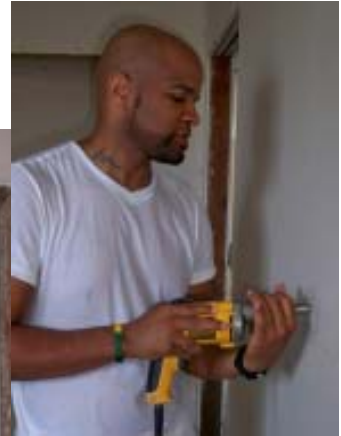
Similar in the sense that need and hurt do not respect boundary lines. Frustration and desperation exist here in the “land of plenty” as it does in countries that hunger for so much. People desire to be known and not forgotten here as much – maybe even more so – than in the third world.

When I was preparing for this trip I was given priceless advice. I was told to not be afraid, “ask their Katrina story.” So, I did and I will forever be changed.

Each story – six years after Katrina – offered a voice to the

seemingly forgotten. Faces gave way to names. Each empty lot or broken down house became known as one whose family survived or a tomb for those who didn’t.

For one week in August, thirteen New Life Network members sought to learn the “story” of those we encountered in New Orleans. We learned that Mr. Jackson spent the first week after Katrina stranded in his elderly mother’s townhouse trying to save both her and his handicapped brother but as the waters rose, hope got slim. We learned that Pastor Garrison moved out of the parsonage right before the storm to a home on higher ground. While his church building was lost, his hope was not. We heard stories of those who lived, those who died, those who left and those who have returned. For one week in August, we



New Life Network Team Members hard at work in New Orleans.

w o r k e d ,
l a u g h e d ,
c r i e d a n d
w o r s h i p e d
a l o n g s i d e
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w i t h o u r s – n e v e r
t o b e f o r g o t t e n .



Mr. Jackson welcoming the New Life Network Team to his home.

Many thanks to the women of the New Life Network!

Over the course of this past year, the New Life Network Women’s Ministry has collected over \$2,000 in donations/goods to help support the Catherine Foundation!

The New Life Network Women’s Ministry Mission Statement:

Reach women where they are. Grow them up in the knowledge and grace of Christ. Send them out into their homes, churches and communities to repeat the process.

For Info on Mission Opportunities Check Out the Ministries Link on www.NewLifeLaPlata.org



THANK YOU!

To the New Life Church
Network from
the children and families
of Fisherman's Village,
Mangagoy, Philippines

Desperately needed over the counter medications and vitamins collected by the New Life Network in May were distributed by local volunteers from Couples for Christ, our local partner in mission efforts to Mangagoy. The children are pictured in their Pre-K school uniforms.

2011-2012 Mission Calendar

Samaritans Purse Christmas Shoebox Drive

October 29-November 13

POC: Carolyn Cook (240) 776-4368

Walk to End Homelessness with Lifestyles, Inc.

November 19

POC: Necie Seeden (240) 229-7320

Christmas Connection Food Drive

Nov 19 - Dec 11 - Collections

December 11 - Packing

December 17 - Distribution

POC: Winter Peed (240) 776-4368

Safe Nights with Lifestyles, Inc.

January 8-15

February 5- 12

POC: Chris Forshey (301) 535-4477

Guatemala Medical Missions Trip

Feb 25 - March 3

POC: Karen Fenner (301) 934-2512

Philippines Mission Trip

March 9-18

POC: Wendy Ashburn (240) 416-4227

Philippines

Mission Trip

March 9-18, 2012

Approx. Cost: \$2,100

Info Meeting:

October 28, 2011

7pm in the Chapel

POC: Wendy Ashburn

(240) 416-4227

