

MEXICO

KOENES
MINISTRIES

Children's outreach in Fatima
with Pastor Juna.



The Lord has done great things and we bear witness of it.

Lord how is it possible that finances are bountiful in times of recession

Ministry takes money and when recession hits, we as non profits begin to wonder how is it possible for the ends to meet. However this past year there were more areas touched than we ever thought possible. In the fall I laid out in a letter similar to this of what we hoped could be accomplished. But God brought even more teams and many more projects and many more ministry opportunities than we ever thought possible.

As of this last year we not only have an association civil status in Mexico but also a Hacienda status that allows us more freedom to serve and meet physical needs of

Mexicans. We already know that the gospel meets all our needs. We love coming alongside the Mexcians to remind them of God's love and care for them through helping them with some of their physical needs.

When we returned in late October, just after a hurricane, we found there were many needs that needed addressing. Finances were provided and teams were booked and we started helping the best we could. We were able to help eight different homes get reestablished and helped with many clean up projects. Often the finances were there but people were the shortage. God knew this in advance and many willing workers came and helped.

As the Lord has laid it on our hearts to help Pastors have a home to live in while they serve, God enabled us to help be a part of building five Pastors homes.

There were also many food baskets and clothing distributions to also help out.

Thank you Lord for your rich blessings to help meet these needs in time of recession. Your provisions are trustworthy and dependable, and abundant.

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what is your highlight of your mission trip?



2010

The highlight that I had this past year were so many so to say one is difficult. But one of the highlights was to give out the food baskets to individuals. We didn't just give the people the basket and then move on, but that we actually took time to visit with them. Then we would ask them what we could pray for them before we left. People took this very seriously and would give us their real needs and share their hearts with us. Here we were strangers, but they knew God could answer their prayers, so they let us pray for them. That was truly my highlight of my mission trip this past year. Kevin Tomkins

casa de esperanza staff/volunteers

committed to working in
harmony for the gospel
to go forward

ART & BRENDA KOENES

We are delighted to oversee the ministry setting up the schedules and agendas for the teams. We love volunteering our time each winter to enjoy the pleasure of seeing God working in so many hearts and lives.

RYAN THIESSEN

Ryan looks after the center when we are not present. He is our only full time staff. His many talents have been a huge blessing to us. Ryan does all our technical projects. His smile warms many.

JUAN CARLOS OLIVERAS

Juan Carlos is our upfront evangelist and translator for the teams. He has many other hats he wears and joyfully fulfills the duties of them.

AGUSTINE BAUTISTE

Augustine is right hand to Art on work projects working alongside the teams. He never is hesitant to help out.

MARILYN AMUDIO

Marilyn has taken over meal preparation and the cleaning schedule. She loves serving and does so with great joy and delight.

ITZEL RANGEL

Is new to the team this fall. She has helped many times with the medical team. Itzel will oversee the housekeeping and aid Brenda in the administration of the teams.

JONATHAN MENDOZA

Returns to us after studying in Canada for the past year. Jon (Shorty) will help with the teams and maintenance around the center.

then there is the hundreds like you who volunteer with your time or your finances or your prayer support. we could not do it with out you. thank you for your commitment to advancing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastora and Juan explain how this meeting has been set up by God for him to be known.



twenty minutes from civilization, hidden on a dirt trail . . .

Juan Carlos and Rob Kehler went on a scouting trip by motorbike one day to see where else we might minister. This was in preparation for our trip to Chihuahua that maybe we could reach some other towns along the way.

As they drove by bike, Juan heard that small voice within him stating "the next time Rob stops to ask if you should go there, that is where I want you to go". It was only another fifteen minutes and Rob stopped saying those exact words. "I think we should go over there."

From where they stood, you could see nothing over there, but they went in obedience as Juan responded to Robs words - "yes we should go over there, I believe that is where God wants us".

As they left the main road and began to drive on a trail about 20 minutes, they came across a very settled community of farmers and ranchers in a town called Batacosa. There they found one evangelical church with a very discouraged yet faithful minister of the word. There were five believers and they were praying that someone would come and preach and affirm that which they were saying. They did not need or want any other help but that of encouragement from other believers who would come to their community. Because of their prayers, we were now in Batacosa. Two weeks later we asked two other local Mexican Pastors and our team from the center (it was one friday night in between groups) and off we headed to meet this new community. We packed 50 food hampers, boxes of Bibles, a few clothes to give away, the Jesus film and projector.

When we arrived the church was filled with people waiting for us. We began to share the story of how God brought us to their community. The pastors shared the Word and many ears were listening intently. That night one of the dear sisters of the faith received healing in her ears so she could hear again. She is loved by the whole community and many were in awe. That night when we showed the Jesus film. There were about 100 people and many responded to the call of Jesus.

I am always a bit skeptical at these films, but since then we have gone back one more time to see the church having grown from five to over 50. Many of the men in the community have given there lives to Christ. In July the Pastora brought out many members of the church to San Carlos. She wanted the Pastors who visited to baptize the new believers. That day over 12 people were baptized. There still are more who desire to do so, but were unable to come at that time and so a second baptism is planned.

I am thankful that God has led us to this community. My heart is excited knowing we had a small part in seeing so many come to the saving knowledge of Christ. All praise to God as He has revealed himself to so many. The Lord is building his Church we just get to join Him in the privilege of sharing His amazing message.

2010

2011

schedule

The Lord has lead more teams to come and join us this year to serve in ministry. We are excited for each one knowing the growth God could bring to their lives and the ones they will minister too. Bless pray for God's leading and blessing each week.

november

19 - 23 Phoenix Christ Lutheran Church
26 - 4 Motorbike outreach trip to Chihuahua

december

7 - 14 Sawatsky family mission
20 - 27 Murray & Dahlke family mission
27 - 4 Winkler MB youth

Teams are from AZ, MB, MT, MI, NV

january

4 - 16 Winkler MB Church
17 - 31 bit of a break

february

3 - 13 Rocky Mountain ministries medical mission
18 - 20 Arbol de Vida marriage seminar
20 - 27 Carmen Pentecostal
26 - 28 Providence Bible College

march

1 - 11 Providence Bible College
12 - 18 Flagstaff Community Church
19 - 25 Paynesville Bible
26 - 1 Newton Community

april

2 - 8 Big Rapids Community
9 - 15 Sierra Bible Church

Koenes news

It has been a busy summer to say the least. We just had our first weekend without friends popping in for a visit. I have loved how many of you have stopped by for a visit in Montana.

This fall is different as we have just sent off our two youngest. Miranda began college in Billings and Jon flew off to Japan on a student exchange. Aj continues to work in Butte with TSA. I am glad we have our Mexican kids with us here in Montana as the house does not seem so empty.

Juan Carlos just returned from Cuba ministering there with World Serve and will return again to Cuba with another team the later days of October. Itzel helps us here and has kept very busy; she is a true blessing to have around. The both have been encouraged to have some of the other Mexicans here in Montana take interest in the gospel and attend church with us here in Belgrade. Juan translates the services so every word is understood. Jonathan (Shorty) finished his college and will come home to us this next week. It will be a delight to have him home. God has been so faithful in teaching and training him in righteousness and good deeds. Augustine's father passed away the beginning of August. It is hard on this young fellow losing both his parents within eighteen months. We have assured him we will be mom and dad standins as he continues to

grow. Augustine, Ryan and Marilyn are in Mexico looking after the Center which remains very busy.

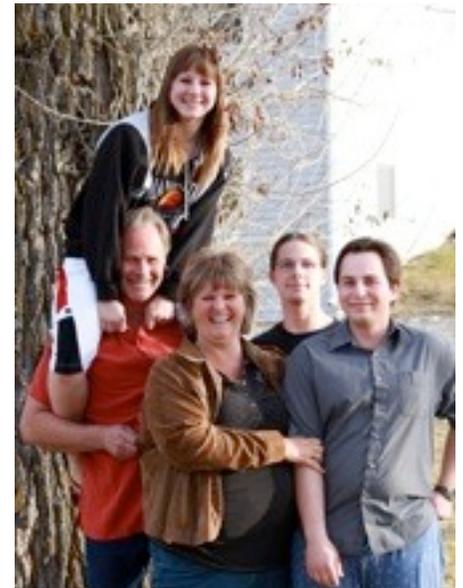
As to Art and myself we have kept very busy with farming, Bible camp, canning, harvesting and trying to keep up with our kids.

Each year it seems like months before we will head back to Mexico but this year the time has flown by.

It was a joy for me, Brenda, to have Art surprise me one morning with telling the dream he had dreamt. Art had sold the center and had bought another, only to realize it was the only restaurant in this entire town. In his dream, I was concerned with the amount of work this would bring. All Art could talk of was the ministry opportunities we would now have to reach that many more for Christ.

So it has changed. Art loves the ministry more than the farming and loves seeing the "seeds" being produced in the lives of others. To me this is assuring knowing that our calling as a couple is in harmony to God's plans. We serve/volunteer in this ministry because we know there is nothing more important in life than to know your Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

As we return this fall with a very full schedule, please keep us in prayer



Miranda, Art, Brenda, Jon, and AJ

Did you know that since we left the center in May, the Center, Casa de Esperanza, has had 7 weekends free and has had 19 weekends booked by the local Mexican Churches for conferences and retreats? We are so thankful that the facility is in year round usage.



plans for this next season . . .

A Roof for Pastor Pablo



Lord willing we will be working with Pastor Pablo this fall to aid in helping them finish their church. Two years ago we helped their church start this facility. The previous church was made with

pallets. They had dreamed of starting a church for 12 years but being from one of the poorer areas of Guaymas it was hard to get funds together. As a ministry we were able to help them build a pastors home so they no longer would need to rent.

The Lord also provided a Canadian church to buy all the bricks for the church. The local body than provided finances and workers to build what you see in this picture below. They are ready for a roof but do not have the finances. \$6000 dollars are needed for the materials and this fall we hope to be able to put the roof on with volunteers. If you would like to help with the materials we would be very grateful. As you can see they have used tarps to keep them in the shade. If you would like to join the team in November and December give us a call. It will be an on going project for several weeks.



The church has its worship service under the shade of tarps or against the wall for protection from the sun. They are so thankful to have sufficient room for all to attend.



Growing Pains and Joys

A growing concern for us is the fact that we do not have enough space for the college students who have a strong desire to come and serve and be discipled with us in San Carlos. The other concern is not having storage room for building projects as we work on many locations at one time. So after waiting upon the Lord's leading and having the college students sleep in tents out back - we have decided to begin to build another building. The building will be placed behind the present laundry/shower house. It will have four rooms. One for males, females, storage, and the Lord knows what the last room is for. Pray for the permits and the finances that need to fall into place.

As the Lord leads

Each year there are other projects that we are not planning to do but the Lord reveals the project and the finances so we go ahead and do it. Like last year, we never intended to repair many homes harmed by the hurricane. i believe there were 8 significant builds. Plus build on five different pastors homes some a complete build others just structure repairs. There were also many small jobs that we helped out with. I am amazed when I look back and wonder where the monies came from and how they multiplied over and over. To God be the glory

Thank you from Pastor Omar and Christine



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EUd6KP9_6s4



this years project with the Juna's

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0U4zL2ZQLHQ>

Motorbike trip to Chihuahua

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YJUJV45K7Qg



WWW.KOENESMINISTRIES.COM

USA
3565 VELTKAMP RD
MANHATTAN, MT 59741

CANADA
1202 2ND ST.
ESTEVAN, SK
S4A OM2

TEL: 406 282 0787
406 599 7168