

THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

FAITHWORKS

Spring 2010

A RED CARDINAL IN A SHOEBOX

I've experienced some suddenly surprising "thank you" behaviors on the 107 mission trips we've sponsored in these last ten years since founding FaithWorks.

The most recent was while walking to the truck for more carpentry tools to replace the rotted fascia boards on the "Olive Branch" mission trip, March 13. "Dean," a 39-year-old mentally disabled man, a savant, living in the 12-member facility (he reminds me of Dustin Hoffman's character in "The Rain Man") stopped me and thrust into my hands a plain, beat-up shoebox. "Here, this is for you open it – now!" The expectant, exuberant look on his face told me this was really important to him. Holstering my hammer in my tool belt, I opened the lid and inside was a 4-inch ceramic figurine of a Red Cardinal bird! That's all it was rattling around in that big shoebox. "I want you to have this – now – for coming to help us today. Jesus loves you. Thank you!" and he walked quickly back to his house, one of the seven in the complex started seven years ago by a Christian couple who had the burden and call to care for mentally and physically, yet highly functional, adult men who could not manage living by themselves yet not so sick they needed to be hospitalized.

I was temporarily "disabled" myself by Dean's heartfelt "Thank You." I was stunned and humbled by the fact he had given so freely something from his valued "collections" of everything in his room – all the way from jars of paper clips to astronomy photos, to marbles, to matchbox cars.

In his childlike way he was illustrating for me anew what Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive." There's no doubt, it's nice to receive. Ironically, in this upside-down world we live in, that comes by the very act of giving, serving those who at the moment can't serve us back. On mission we always get more than we give!

And, sometimes that comes from those unrehearsed "thank-yous" at the least unlikely moments. I'll never forget those, I hope you don't either. Because the act of remembering those who said their thank you in such a unique, one-of-a-kind way prompts us to ask ourselves, "When have I given a thank you to someone by sacrificing a gift of something really valuable to me?"

That's the lesson of a Red Cardinal in a shoebox!

On Mission with you,

Glen Allen,
Executive Director, Faithworks



Two residents of the Olive Branch.

MEXICO MISSION TRIP, FEBRUARY 4-7

I've been on several Mexico mission trips before, but this time our whole family was able to go. It was a wonderful experience for all of us and finally a chance for them to see what all goes on during these medical mission trips. For this trip, in addition to the two doctors attending to general patient needs, we also had an optometrist, a dentist, and a children's activities crew. So there was a lot of activity. For the most part, I helped interpret for one of the doctors. We had both some great visits with patients and frustrating circumstances surrounding others. We helped a man who had an infected ear, helped another man understanding his knee problem and finding ways to better health, met with a couple who were expecting a baby. They had not seen anyone with the pregnancy yet and wanted reassurance that everything looked okay. We showed the husband where on his wife's stomach he could feel the baby's head. He was beaming when he felt it. Some of the more difficult situations involved seeing a man with the onset of arthritis. Or seeing people with diabetes and/or high blood pressure and not having the means to get continual care or even to change their diet much from cheaper tortillas and beans to more expensive vegetables. One heartbreaking situation was seeing a 61-year-old woman who was taking care of her three grandchildren since her daughter had died in childbirth. This woman had diabetes and high blood pressure as well as thyroid problems, and had come to us for help. While we felt somewhat at a loss at how we could help her with this one visit and limited supplies, I later thought about how we could see and care for her while we were with her, give her medications to help for a time, and then pray for her, taking to heart that God will hear and answer our prayers.

The dentist and optometrist were overflowing with visitors, getting teeth pulled, cavities filled, and glasses



People waiting for the clinic to open.

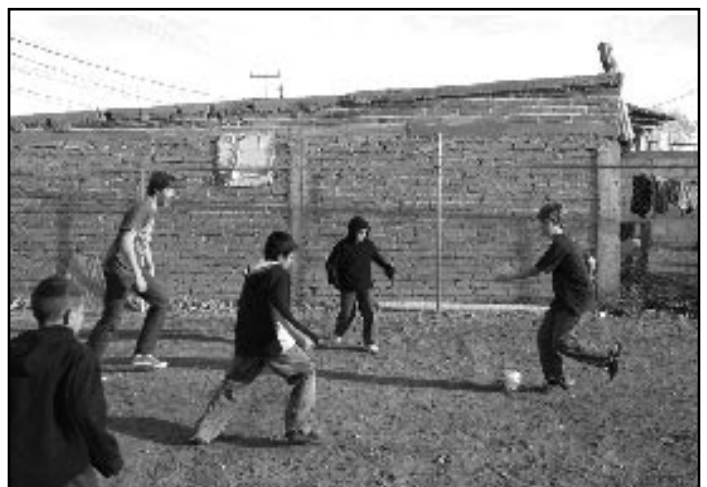
fitted. The children's ministry was bustling also, with kids playing soccer in the dirt lot with my two boys, and others creating wonderful symmetrical paint designs that were taped up to the clinic walls as the weekend progressed.

The members of the Methodist Church that is in charge of the clinic were very appreciative and supportive in every way, and a group of dedicated women prepared our lunches and dinners for us on clinic days. Gela, pastor of the church, was always found nearby smoothing the way for us, helping wherever she was needed to keep things moving forward. She has a wonderful, vibrant manner and smile that is all the more amazing considering she lost her husband last summer in a car accident, so she is now pastoring the church and raising their two children without him. At the end of the last day the church had a special worship service for us. You could feel the joy of the Holy Spirit and the gratitude coming both ways during the service—their gratitude for us holding the clinic and for the care we could give to the community, and our seeing their joy and obvious love for God as they forge ahead taking care of their church and community in spite of their many obstacles and few resources. What an inspiration they are, and what a wonderful experience this mission trip was for our entire family!

Lisa Kearsley

This was my first mission trip and I thought that it was super fun. I was on the children's ministry and I got to make crafts and play soccer with the kids all day. It was great. I even got to help out in the pharmacy. The food that we got was delicious. Mexico was great and I plan on returning on another trip in the future.

Jak Kearsley, age 13



Ian and Jak Kearsley playing soccer with boys at the clinic.

To see these and more pictures of the Mexico mission trip IN COLOR, visit www.faithworksphotos1.shutterstock.com



Glen brings out more soccer balls.

MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION SUPPORT

As you may know, each year we send three, 20-member Medical Mission teams into Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico.

In the last several months the sponsoring church of our free clinics in Agua Prieta has had a difficult "testing" time, the most devastating being the loss of Diego Lopez, their beloved pastor, killed in an automobile accident. Since that time we have seen many of you want to provide financial help to keep his family and church going. To date, we have sent down over \$3200 to help Gela, (his wife,) and their children. Her need continues through these several months now, in spite of her industrious efforts to bring in income.

If you'd like to help in this way, please send your support to "Pastor Diego Lopez Memorial Fund," FaithWorks, 3600 N. Fourth St., Flagstaff, AZ. 86004. Thank you.



Steve Lewis and Faye Willis help a couple expecting a baby.



Gigi Sorenson hugs her friend Mila, whom we've helped at previous clinics and who now who helps us by preparing our meals on clinic days.



Glen, Gela, and Anita share a laugh during worship service.



Kathy Marvin works on crafts with the children.

OLIVE BRANCH MISSION TRIP

You never know when God is going to bless you! Blessings poured out on 26 missionaries from four different churches on Saturday, March 13, while on a FaithWorks mission trip to the Olive Branch in Rimrock, AZ. Ten of the missionaries were young people, with seven of them from The Camp Verde United Methodist Church along with their two youth directors. This was their first mission trip and they were excited to be participates. We hope to see them on future trips.

The Olive Branch facility consists of seven mobile homes which currently house eleven men with developmental disabilities. Living as a family with a loving staff, they interact within a neighborhood and work in the community. For instance, several of the men work at the McDonalds in Camp Verde. If you should stop at McDonalds and meet Dean while he is wiping down tables, he will engage you in conversation and the third question he asks customers is, "Are you a Christian? I

am." He is a testimony of God's love as he shares his love with total strangers.

Missioners met at the site at 7:30 a.m. For coffee and donuts, devotions and work assignments. A large group worked on shingling two of the mobile homes, some worked on windows, others cleaned inside the living quarters and some painted. During lunch, we were joined by the staff and residents which was a fun time for everyone. We personally met all of the residents including the eldest who is 78 and one of the most active. The very caring staff shared with us that the residents have participated in a number of community activities, including a city parade, they go on outings, have picnics, and they regularly attend church.

Our team, under the leadership of Bob and Polly Philpott, was the first to do a mission trip to Olive Branch. We hope there are other opportunities to go to Olive Branch so that other missionaries might experience the love of God in this loving environment.



To see these and more pictures of the Olive Branch mission trip IN COLOR, visit www.faithworksphotos1.shutterfly.com

Dear Dean,
 Thank you for choosing the Olive Branch as an outreach ministry this year! It was a remarkable experience & one we are truly grateful for. God bless you & the entire Faith Works team.
TANKS so much!
 In Christ,
 Rubick Tubke
 Cindy Howell

Jeff
 Polly
 Don & Betty
 Phil Williams
 Don Ruthford
 Fred Kallenberg
 Jeff
 Phil
 Bobby
 Dean
 Jeffers



ON MISSION - 10 YEARS AND COUNTING!

WOW! it hardly seems true—this is our 10th Anniversary year ... and we are celebrating! Already, on February 28, in the funding church of *FaithWorks*, Trinity Heights United Methodist Church in Flagstaff, we had a 10th Birthday cake, shared testimonies from changed lives and were grateful recipients of the love offering of \$5682 for various mission causes. Video on screen of the majority of our 106 mission trips was reminiscent of so many people, places, and lives that we've touched through the years. What a day!

At this writing, we continue to celebrate the fact that God has blessed us so generously in:

- Sending out 1,967 missionaries.
- Serving 108 destinations.
- Donating over \$1,011,000 in free labor, material and medicines.
- Contributing over \$300,000 to the construction and upkeep of orphanages in Russia and Africa.
- Lives have been changed, saved and made useful.
- God has been Glorified!

The 10th Anniversary will reach a high point when we gather for the 10th annual Celebration Banquet, Friday, October 1, 2010 at Trinity Heights United Methodist Church in Flagstaff, Arizona. Please come and join us at 6pm for great food, fellowship, testimonies and video, capturing the thrill of short-term mission-sending since June 2000!



Glen and Jan Allen and Pastor Karol at the anniversary celebration.

(left) Spencer Cunningham at the Ollive Branch mission trip.

BLANKETS DONATED FOR HAITI

Our thanks to Ashlee Furstnow who donated 80 much-needed blankets for Haiti. Parkside Community Church in Camp Verde, One of FaithWorks member churches, is filling a shipping container with many items needed for Haiti, and the blankets will go to Haiti in that container. Thank you, Ashlee, for having a caring heart for the needy people in Haiti!



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.

Officers

President	Bill Austin
Vice President	Pastor Mike Tenpenny
Secretary	Jana Ruhlman
Treasurer	Polly Philpott
Prayer Coordinator	John Mauk
Executive Director	Glen Allen

Phone office 928-774-0504, or cell 928-821-1073
 Fax 928-774-0504
 E-mail GlenAllen@FaithWorks4us.org
 Website www.FaithWorks4us.org

OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

FaithWorks
 3600 North Fourth St.
 Flagstaff, Az 86004

OFFICE LOCATION

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

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9-3

In-kind donations are welcome during office hours; please call office before bringing in large donations. Thank you!



*(left) A boy in the Mexico clinic showing us his new glasses.
 (right) Two dogs as part of the scene at the Mexico clinic.*



FAITHWORKS FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND JAN 1 - FEB 28, 2010

REVENUE:	CONTRIBUTED	BUDGETED	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
Contributions -Churches	\$7,055	\$7,917	\$(861)
Contributions -Individuals	\$4,545	\$11,000	\$(6,455)
Other Revenue	\$1,321	\$2,887	\$(1,567)
Total Revenue	\$12,921	\$21,804	\$(8,883)
<hr/>			
OPERATING EXPENSE	\$25,482	\$21,594	\$3,887
NET OF EXPENDITURES OVER REVENUE		(\$12,560)	

We thank each of you for your generous contributions this year. Thank you for being so faithful to contribute to God's work through *FaithWorks*. As you can see we have operating expenditures exceeding our operating revenue at the end of February of \$12, 560. So we are running somewhat short. Usually, we are able to catch up with the faithfulness of our supporters as the year goes on, matching our budget by year end.

In addition to the General Operating Fund we have received \$12,532 from Jan 1-Feb 28, 2010 in Funds designated for special projects! These include our projects in Africa, Mexico, Russia, New Mexico, Alaska and various other local mission projects. 100% of these funds go as requested to the designated projects.

Again, we thank you all of you for your heart for missions and for reaching out to a needy, hurting world.

FAITHWORKS SUPPORT

Yes, I want to help by...

sending a gift of \$ _____ to be used for

sending \$ _____ monthly to help with on-going mission ministries.

praying for you.

Name _____

Address _____

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2010

May 13-16: Mexico Medical Mission

....Trip Full

June 27-July 3: McCurdy Mission School, Espanola, New Mexico

...openings

July 10: Flagstaff, Sunshine Rescue Mission

.... openings.

August 14-22: Anchorage Alaska, Habitat for Humanity

...openings (due to close soon)

August 22-30: Anchorage Alaska; Birchwood Camp

...some openings left (due to close soon)

November 11-14: Mexico Medical Mission

...openings

December 4: Navajo Indian Children's Christmas Mission

...openings

If you are thinking of serving on a mission PLEASE contact us ASAP. The trips fill so quickly and we want you all to have the opportunity of serving in the name of Jesus. Call the F/W office @ 928-774-0504 or Jan Allen @ 928-567-0092.

OLD TOWN MISSION

For the fifth year in a row we will be gathering at the Old Town Mission in Old Town Cottonwood, Arizona, on April 10. Noah Green will be the trip leader this year.

With a team of no less than 20 we will descend upon

Bryan Detwiler and his ministry of help to the "Working Poor" in the Verde Valley.

A new feature at the Mission is the addition last year of a Thrift Shop. We will be helping sort clothes and items there as well as painting, minor construction and all sorts of "tasks" at the mission itself. The team is full, but plan on going with us next year to this very worthy ministry in the Verde Valley.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!

Mission Trip Participants, January - March 2010

Mexico Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Bill & Shannon Bradel, Steve & Vickie Lewis, Henry McLaughlin, Ken Jeffers, Dave & Gigi Sorenson, Faye Willis, Georgia Delgadillo, Mike, Lisa, Ian & Jak Kearsley, Anita Oquita, Kathy Marvin, Norma McDowell, Carolyn Zanetti

Olive Branch Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Darrel & Yvonne English, Bill Stafford, Bob & Polly Philpott, Brian Wright & Camp Verde United Methodist Youth Group, Bill Austin, Pete Piper, Mark & Barbara Hall, Whitney, Jennifer, Bailey, Tyler, and Spencer Cunningham, Nancy Rooney

Volunteer Staff

Jan Allen - Mission Trip Coordinator; John Mauk - Prayer and Medicine Coordinator;
Pete and De Dow - Financial Secretaries; Polly Philpott - Treasurer; Susan Stokes - Website Management;
Lisa Kearsley - Editor, 'The Common Task'; Polly Philpott - Office Team Leader;
Pete Piper and Kelly Hanson - Office volunteers; Roger Holden - In-kind Gifts Coordinator

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

DONATIONS

If you would like to financially support FaithWorks or any of our trips, you can join the many Christians who have made FaithWorks part of their monthly budget. You can designate your funds or give general support that can be applied where it is needed most.

In-Kind gifts are accepted on an as-needed basis.

VOLUNTEERS

There is always a place for anyone who wishes to volunteer for any of our trips/projects/office work.

PLANNED GIVING

Making FaithWorks part of your estate will leave a legacy of good works that will change lives.



A cat on the roof watching the Olive Branch mission team at work.



Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Flagstaff, AZ
Permit No. 102

Address Service Requested

FaithWorks
3600 North Fourth Street
Flagstaff, AZ 86004