



THE COMMON TASK

Matthew 28:18-20

A PUBLICATION OF

FAITHWORKS

December 2011



A "CHRISTMAS-FRIENDLY" MISSION?

Have you noticed? In our "evolving" American culture how some of our national chain stores choose to recognize "Christmas" as an honored, traditional, national observance. Others somewhat. Some companies are even against the word "Christmas."

The American Family Association's 2011 survey shows how the nation's top retailers treat the expression "Christmas" in their practices. Some of the 50 companies that use the term "Christmas" on a regular basis are: Best Buy; CVS Pharmacy; Lowe's; Hallmark; Sears; Toys R Us. They are FOR "Christmas."

Just four of the 10 US companies that are "marginal" in embracing "Christmas" are: Bath & Body Works; Dollar Tree; Safeway and Starbucks. Then, a sample (six) of the twelve identified companies that show a rejection of the word "Christmas" in their advertising are: Banana Republic; GAP; L.L. Bean; Office Depot; Old Navy and Victoria's Secret.

These observations are not judgemental—just that this is the way it is by actual survey of their business practices. Either by neglect or intention, our American culture is just this way this year.

At *FaithWorks*, each year since our founding in June 2000, we have targeted "Christmas" as a great opportunity to reach out and minister to the Navajo Indian Reservation children. We have sought to collect and distribute toys, clothes and food-stuffs for kids in the needy "nation" to the north, spreading across Northern Arizona, where over 200,000 Navajos live in a unique culture.

We've taken volunteer mission teams ranging in number from 10 to 43 eager folks who want to share "Christmas" with our Navajo friends. We've been to Antelope Hills, Joseph City, and Leupp, bringing that "goodwill to all men," which the first Christmas angel spoke of in that manger announcement in Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward all men."

We've had the privilege of taking presents of "work" to these isolated places where we've repaired roofs, built sheds, organized clothes and fixed broken things of all sorts and left all these mission destinations always better off than when we arrive.

This is the way we "do" Christmas at *FaithWorks*. Just yesterday, December 3, we had the privilege of taking "Christmas" out to our Navajo partners, Pastor and Mrs. Bahe, at their church near Grand Falls, our third consecutive year to minister there. We delivered over 105 wrapped toys, 25 bags of warm clothing, 10 brand-new coats, 30 new or handmade blankets, 8 large bags of Beanie Babies, food stuffs, cases and cases of drinking water and senior nutritional drinks—all donated by you, our generous supporters at Christmas!

And, we will do it each and every Christmas. It's our great opportunity to share the love of Christ for all people. We will intentionally stay "Christmas-friendly" at *FaithWorks*!

MERRY CHRISTMAS, 2011!

Glen Allen, Executive Director



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	Dave Sorenson
Vice President	David Patton
Secretary	Linda Van Deren
Treasurer	Polly Philpott
Prayer Coordinator	John Mauk
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OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS

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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!

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2012

We have many mission trips scheduled for 2012. Would you like to join us? Please visit our website or call our office to find out more or get a registration form.

- January 14**
Youth Haven Ranch Mission, Casa Grande, AZ
- February 16-19**
Agua Prieta Medical Mission, Sonora, Mexico
- March 10**
The Olive Branch Mission, Rimrock, AZ
- April 7**
Living Waters Retreat Center, Cornville, AZ
- May 5**
Northstar Youth Ranch Mission, Flagstaff, AZ
- May 17-20**
Agua Prieta Medical Mission, Sonora, Mexico
- July 8-14**
McCurdy Mission School Mission, Espanola, New Mexico

- June 28 – July 13**
Africa Medical Mission, Karatu, Tanzania
- August 11-19**
Birchwood Camp Mission, Chugiak, Alaska
- October 15**
Navajo Construction Mission, Leupp, AZ
- November 15-18**
Agua Prieta Medical Mission, Sonora, Mexico
- December 1**
Navajo Children’s Christmas Mission, Leupp, AZ

Friday, October 5
12th Annual Missions Celebration Banquet

REGISTRATIONS NEEDED NOW!

We are now accepting registrations for medical personnel for our **Medical Mission to Tanzania June 28 - July 13**. We need to know ASAP so as to make arrangements on both ends for our trip. Please call the office for more information. This is a wonderful way to show your love for those who are much less fortunate than us and who need to know and see God’s love through you.

We are also taking registrations for the **Youth Haven Ranch Mission January 14 in Casa Grande, AZ**. Please plan to join *FaithWorks* as we come alongside the staff to assist them in building fix-up/cleaning/painting, so that they might spend more time with the youth. We will only be taking 15 folks and the fee will be \$30 per person for the day which covers: van fuel (from Flagstaff), meals, water, and materials needed for the day. Call the office today to reserve your spot on the team!

LEUPP NAVAJO CHRISTMAS MISSION DECEMBER 3



First of all...a great big THANK YOU to all team members for your flexibility and patience while we tried to make this mission trip happen! Yet, with your best interests and safety, with the snowstorm in mind, we made the no-go decision. Secondly, a great big THANK YOU to all our “behind-the-scenes” team members who in the last few days loaded the van, loaded the trailer, helped with the office end of things, and shopped for gifts and food, all in trying to make the mission trip succeed.

Actually, the “mission” *did* happen!! With the help of your love and prayers.

At 6:30am in the morning Glen and Jan started to drive up the mountain from Camp Verde, and by the time they reached Flagstaff, they had made the no-go decision and called you all. Considering a van load of gifts, a trailer full of more gifts, water and food, they thought they would try to make it out to Leupp, or at least make a good try at it.

After calling Pastor Dean and hearing him say the road was clear there, off they went into the swirling snowstorm.

It did clear up a little by the time they reached Leupp, so they were able to get down the dirt road to the church and unload the 15-passenger van that was loaded to the roof, and unload the covered *FaithWorks* trailer.

Pastor Dean and Lola were there waiting for us and were disappointed that we couldn’t proceed with the Christmas party, but they understood totally. After unloading over 105 wrapped gifts, 25 bags of clothing, over 10 brand-new coats, 30 new or handmaed blankets, and 8 bags of Beanie Babies into their lovely church, they treated us to hot fry bread and shepherd coffee. With the gifts and the many cupcakes, they proceeded with the Navajo portion of the party because many Navajo families were planning to come.

Glen and Jan left, feeling like Mr. and Mrs. Claus, even though the weather was getting worse by the minute.

They just barely made it back to Flagstaff, switched out the van for their truck and headed back down the hill to Camp Verde. The going was very slow, and the roads were in terrible shape (they were *so* very glad that none of you were out there), but they made it home around 3:30pm safe and sound.

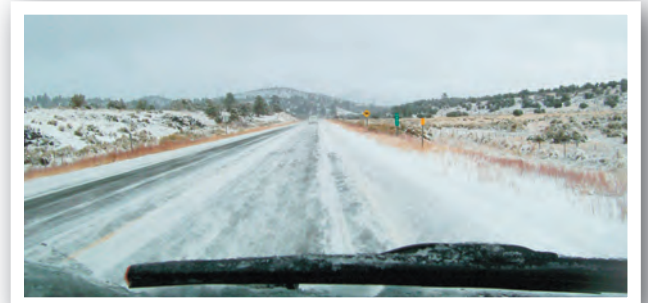
There are more gifts coming in, and they plan to distribute them along with more food stuffs to Leupp as soon as possible.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, for your prayers and confidence in us to have your safety in mind.

In the days to come we will continue to bring Christmas to our Navajo friends through your generosity and love of missions.

Pastor Dean and Lola say “*Thank you*” for your generosity and wish you all a very Merry Christmas!

On Mission With You,
Glen and Jan



The white-knuckle drive.



Unloading the presents.



Coats and more coats.

NAVAJO BUILDING & FIX-UP MISSION OCTOBER 29th

Sixteen *FaithWorks* missionaries began the day with introductions to new friends and old acquaintances in the Fellowship Hall of Church of God Holiness just outside Leupp, AZ. One participant coming all the way from Switzerland! This church in the Navajo Nation northeast of Flagstaff is served by Pastors Dean and Lola Bahe. New tools—a saw and drill—were gratefully put to use as we split into three groups for the day’s work: one group working on the roof at the pastor’s home nearby; one group continuing the ceiling texturing and finishing of the Fellowship Hall, and one group continuing the storage shed refurbishing. Glen said that we were “the finishers” of waiting projects that day!

The storage shed, which has been under construction for three years, was our group’s project. Randy Sealover was our experienced “construction boss.” New siding, trim and many cut nails later, the structure was nearly finished. In the meantime the paint crew was hard at it. Two ladies up high with ladders and brushes, two at ground level, and another in between with rollers. What a sight! Even Marilyn, with her broken leg mending in a soft boot, painted away. Glen tells recruits for *FaithWorks* that he can find a place for each person’s talents, and that was certainly true of the paint crew.

Authentic Navajo tacos were prepared by Lola and friends and provided our delicious lunch. Rahel, Betsy, and Kristin learned the art of kneading and shaping the frybread. There is *nothing* like this in Switzerland! Lunch ended with me enjoying a 72nd Happy Birthday sung in English, Navajo, and Swiss/German! Back to work...finishing the painting and a new section of roof. Even the children’s merry-go-round received a fresh coat of paint! It was a rewarding day and perhaps a miraculous one as the wind did not blow in its usual ferocious way.

By Barbara Bayer,
Overgaard, AZ



To see more of these and Mexico’s mission trip pictures in color, as well as pictures of many other mission trips, visit our REVAMPED WEBSITE: www.faithworks4us.com.



MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION TRIP NOVEMBER 17-20

After several of our volunteer medical professionals had to cancel because of illness and other sorts of maladies, we still ended up with a wonderful team. In fact, we saw more folks this time than ever before.

Thanks to all of you for your prayers while we were traveling and especially when we crossed the border. No big hang-ups there, just a lot of waiting.

With a general practitioner and gynecologist, a pediatrician and an optometrist, we were very well prepared this time. The wonderful nurses, pharmacists, children’s worker, and helpers rounded out the team of 14.

The optometrist saw 206 patients in two days dispensing glasses. More were waiting to be seen, but that was all he and his assistant could handle. Thank you for the glasses that have been donated for his use. He says there were about 1100 pairs of glasses for the folks to choose from—it is always good to have a choice.

The other three doctors were busy with childhood problems, pregnancies, high blood pressures, diabetes problems, and a lot of coughs and colds. We were able to dispense enough medicines to hopefully get these folks over their sicknesses. As usual, we had to run to the Mexican pharmacies and purchase some needed medicines, so thank you for the cash that was donated for just that purpose. The *Fuente de Vida* and *El Buen Pastor* churches welcomed the team to their neighborhoods by advertising the times and dates of the clinics. Everyone was so very grateful and thanked us over and over for the free clinic and medicines. And we thank the Lord and you for allowing us to do what we do.

We saw over 400 patients on this trip, and we couldn’t have done it without your prayers, support and presence.

Be sure to check out our medical missions to Mexico in 2012 and sign up now!



CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

www.faithworks4us.org

Many thanks to Phillip Aerts for his wonderfully detailed overhaul of the *FaithWorks* website. It has been a long time in coming, and we are very pleased with it.

Please visit us at www.faithworks4us.org soon. We have added some interesting and helpful links covering different aspects of *FaithWorks*, a link to photos of past mission trips, and a dynamic calendar showing upcoming mission trips.

This website overhaul was made possible by a very generous financial gift from Lisa Kearsley and her family. Thank you Lisa!



FAITHWORKS NEEDS:

- Video camera capable of transferring to a DVD.
- Vitamins
- Eye glasses

Can you help supply any of these items? If so, please call the *FaithWorks* office. Thank you!

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

Randy and Debbi Sealover for the generous gift of a digital camera that was so needed to take photos on all the mission trips.

Robert & Tina Caskey for the generous gifts of the new circular saw and new cordless drill, which are practically indispensable on the many building fix-up missions we take.

2012 FAITHWORKS CALENDARS!

Don't forget to purchase your 2012 FaithWorks calendars for Christmas! This year's calendar shows all the mission trip dates on each month as well as beautiful, glossy photos of the 2011 mission trips. These make wonderful Christmas gifts and are a special reminder of the many FaithWorks mission trips. Calendars are \$10 each, and we will gladly mail them to you. If you would like to purchase a calendar, please call the FaithWorks office at 928-774-0504.

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 _____

VITAL STATISTICS

(SINCE FOUNDING JUNE 2000)

Missionaries sent out	2293
Different destinations	125
Value of donated labor, medicines, and materials	\$1,105,902

GOODSEARCH!



The check is in the mail!! GOOD words to hear right?

Well, thanks to all of you who have used *GoodSearch* as your search/shop engine online, *FaithWorks* has received a check for \$164.65 for the year 2011. It is so very easy to use *GoodSearch*, and we hope that you will do more of it in the future! Just put *GoodSearch* in your tool bar and go there to search/shop anywhere online, and they will donate \$.01 every time you do!

Thank you. Good-Searching.

FAITHWORKS FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND JAN 1 - NOV 30, 2011

REVENUE:	AMOUNT	BUDGETED	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
Donations from Churches	\$35,389	\$42,625	\$(7,236)
Donations from Individuals	\$56,847	\$63,250	\$(6,403)
Church Membership Dues	\$1,825	\$1,948	\$(123)
Other Revenue	\$9,407	\$11,825	\$(2,418)
Total Revenue	\$103,468	\$119,648	\$(16,180)

OPERATING EXPENSES: \$113,148 \$119,358 \$6,211

Net of Expense over Revenue (\$9,680)

We so appreciate each of you that contributes so faithfully to *FaithWorks*. So many of you have a heart for missions and a compassion for the needy in this world. We are running short this year with expense exceeding our revenue by \$9,680. We are so thankful though because that shortage is much less than it was at the end of Oct. due to some very generous contributions made in November. We have also been able to cut expenses below what was budgeted by \$6,210.65 as you can see from the above report. If God leads you to help with this shortage it would be so appreciated as *FaithWorks* continues His work in the coming months. Please remember that *FaithWorks* is a non-profit 501(c3) organization and that your donations are tax deductible.

In addition to the General Operating Fund we have received \$34,220 from Jan 1-Nov 30, 2011 in funds designated for special projects. These include our projects in Africa, Mexico, New Mexico, Alaska and various other local mission projects. 100% of these funds go as requested to the designated projects.

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

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!

Mission Trip Participants, October - December, 2011

Leupp Building Fix-up Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Tom & Barbara Bayer, Larry & Betsy Hale, Randy & Debbie Sealover, Ryan & Kristin Ross, Annetta Follmer, Dottie McArthur, Marilyn Fogg, Noah Green, Ed Zukowski, Rahel Gerber

Mexico Medical Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Dave & Gigi Sorenson, Anita Oquita, Kathy Marvin, Kelly Hanson, Matilde Leibe, Linda VanDeren

Leupp Christmas Mission Team—*Even though weather kept many from going!*—Glen & Jan Allen, Dick & Lu Brumbaugh, the Bressler family, Annetta Follmer, Ed & Barbara Gilman, Annie Booth & Benjamin Fraher, Bud & Barb Parenteau, Joe & Pam Hendrickson, Jeannie Ward, Chris & Peggy Hodes, Gloria Riley

Volunteer Staff

Jan Allen - Mission Trip Coordinator; John Mauk - Prayer and Medicine Coordinator; Pete and De Dow - Financial Secretaries; Polly Philpott - Treasurer; Lisa Kearsley - Editor, 'The Common Task'; Polly Philpott - Office Team Leader; Pete Piper and Kelly Campbell - Office volunteers; Roger Holden - Assistant

THE BLESSINGS OF MISSION TRIPS...

Dr. Ken Jeffers, Optometrist who provides eye care when we go to Mexico:

"I love this ministry. I think it's "my thing" to put it in slang. To put it in spiritual language, I feel that God has been grooming me for mission in Mexico since I was in 7th grade. I love the Mexican people and I love FaithWorks. I love Jan and Glen too and I love all the people I've met on these missions!"



Scenes from Leupp in October



From Clint Miller, Paradise Valley UMC, first-time missionary to Navajo Children's Christmas mission trip 2011:

"I want to make this my annual Christmas tradition!"



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