

THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

FAITHWORKS

March 2012

GOD WILL DO IT AGAIN

It's no secret to any of us that we're going through hard times economically—**IT'S STILL!** The length and depth of this so-called "recession" continues to challenge us.

Do you remember the wonderful old black and white Christmas movie, "The Miracle on 34th St?"

Well, I have a Christmas story of my own to tell you, "The Miracle on 4th St."— the location where *FaithWorks* receives mail here in Flagstaff.

It all started at the end of September 2011 when our beloved treasurer, Polly Philpott, gave us the news that we were running a \$21,541.00 deficit, expenses over income. It seems it had been a chronic monthly accumulation of shortfalls.

Our staff, office volunteers, and Board of Directors began to earnestly turn over the entire predicament to God in prayer—knowing that we had been doing everything in our power to be efficient and frugal in utilizing every dollar. There was nowhere left to trim expenses.

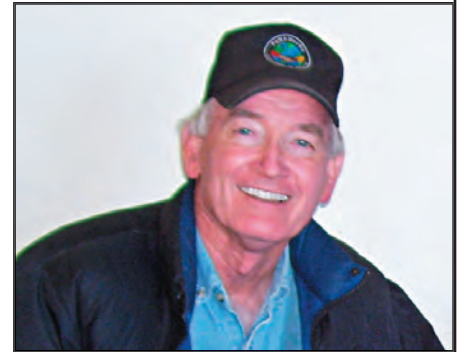
And, believing we're to keep on moving forward in faith to continue our level of missions' ministry to so many needy folks, we labored on, trusting God to supply our need according to His will.

Then, as we worked, we started to notice the miracle happening with each monthly financial report. Gifts from God's people everywhere began to trickle in to help us. Long story short, this is the record of God's miraculous work at the top of 4th St. in Flagstaff, Arizona. Just look below to see the recording of God's monthly provision leading up to Christmas:

September 30: Deficit of \$21,541.39
October 31: Deficit of \$18,434.99
November 31: Deficit of \$9,679.86
December 31: Deficit of \$313.19 (And, NO, this is not a typo!)

As you can see, through God's generous people, just like you, giving together, but no one individual having the details of our critical need, you were being used to reduce our deficit to almost nothing by year's end!

That's our "Miracle On 4th Street"!



Children at the Mexico Medical Mission trip in February.

We enter 2012 with that same trust in God's provision through His people to meet the needs of His Kingdom work.

The Apostle Paul said of God's generous people in 2 *Corinthians 8:1-2* "... We must tell you about the grace that God has given to the Macedonian churches. Somehow in the most difficult circumstances their joy and the fact of being down to their last penny themselves produced a magnificent concern for other people." (*Phillips*)

In 2012, in these difficult times, we believe God will do a "Miracle On 4th St." again!

On Mission With You,

Glen Allen, Executive Director



YOUTH HAVEN YOUTH RANCH, JAN 14

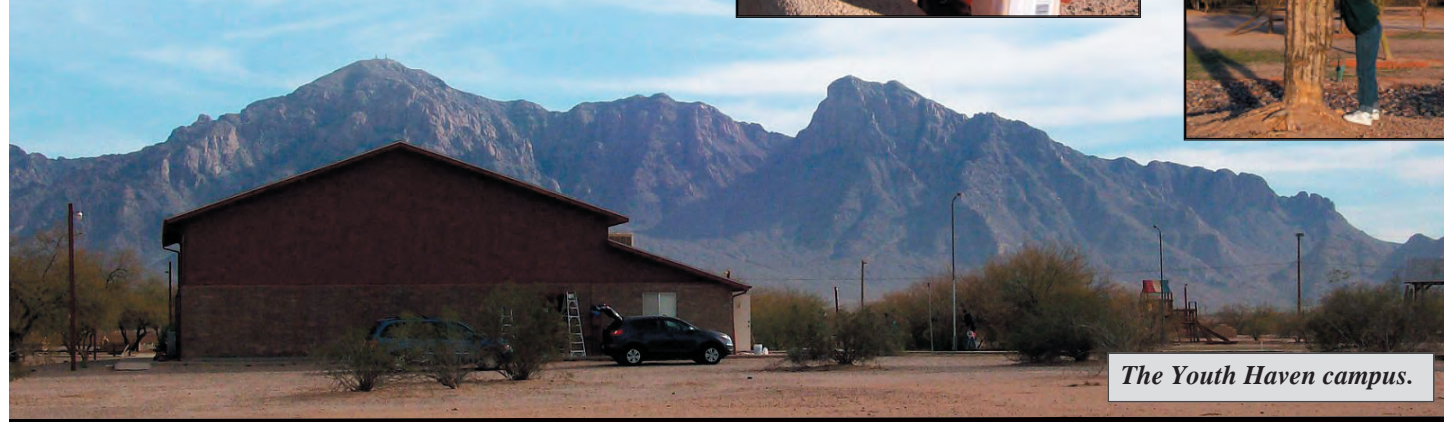
Our very first mission of 2012 took the *FaithWorks* team to Picacho, Arizona, a small cotton-farming community near Casa Grande, just south of Phoenix.

There, the "Youth Haven Youth Ranch," started in 1968 in Michigan, has been ministering to youth who have various negative influences in their lives such as abuse, neglect, and/or poverty.

The ranch holds weekend camps during the school year and week-long camps in the summer. There is no charge to the "rancher," they are totally donor funded. That's what makes the work of a volunteer so very important and needed. The ranch's mission is to "help disadvantaged youth transform their lives by providing learning experiences in a fun and safe Christian environment, free of charge."

FaithWorks took 28 volunteers on Jan. 14 to Youth Haven and had a very productive time of painting, construction repair, and general clean-up of their beautiful campus. Since the ranch is large with 40 acres in the middle of cotton fields, there is always something needing fixing.

Thank you for all your prayers, volunteerism and giving to make this possible. We came away blessed to be a blessing.



The Youth Haven campus.



Cleaning out the freezer.



To see these and other mission trip pictures **IN COLOR**, visit www.faithworks4us.org

The paint crew.



Lunch time!



Working alongside the Olive Branch residents.



A job well done.

OLIVE BRANCH MISSION

Saturday, March 10 was a beautiful day for people driving from Flagstaff, Williams, the Verde Valley, and Phoenix to Rimrock, AZ. The Olive Branch was the worksite for the 27 *FaithWorks* participants who came from seven different churches. This setting provides a Christian family-type location for the 13 men who currently live there. There are seven homes (they are hoping to buy an eighth) where the highly functioning men with developmental disabilities live. Cyndi Howell, director, and her staff also live in this setting, providing a caring and loving environment where each individual can grow as a balanced and integrated person. This is achieved through jobs, church activities, dances, outings, household chores, Special Olympics, and community service.

Following donuts, coffee and a devotional, Glen Allen went over assignments for the day. By the end of the day, many projects had been completed by the teams consisting of people from elementary school age to seniors in their 70s. Projects completed included building eight raised 3 x 10 foot garden frames, filling them with soil and fertilizer, and fixing the gate entering the garden area, in an effort to keep out destructive javelinas. Other teams cleaned out the freezers and organized the food stored in a walk-in freezer (a very cold job), installed laminate flooring in one of the houses and worked on flooring in a second home. Three porches were painted, a concrete ramp was built and poured, skirting was placed around a trailer, two vehicles were detailed, and rose bushes were trimmed.

The best part of this mission trip was the opportunity to spend considerable time with the men and staff of Olive Branch. A number of the men worked side-by-side with the missionaries filling the new raised gardens with dirt and fertilizer. Lunch was enjoyed by all of the men, staff, and *FaithWorks* participants, eating together and having the opportunity to hear Cyndi explain the mission of Olive Branch. Darrel & I went on this mission a couple of years ago. We saw many of the same men that we met on our first trip, and it was fun to renew those acquaintances.

This was definitely a spirit-filled day and to quote Glen who said, "We all worked as one because we are ALL ONE in the spirit and the Lord."

By Yvonne English

MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION TRIP FEBRUARY 16-19

We had an incredible experience during our Medical Mission Trip. First, we thank you for your prayers. We all stayed healthy during our time in Mexico (just before the trip, everyone else in my family had caught a cold, but I never did). All our border crossings went seamlessly, the group really came together and enjoyed working and being with each other. We definitely felt a connection to the people we helped and to the church community that hosted our mission trip at the clinic. We saw these as the fruits of your prayers. I'm sure many other answers to prayer occurred that we were beyond our ability to see.

We treated a great number of people at the clinic, with over 160 patients seen by the mission group's two doctors and two physical therapists. A growing trend with



Peggy, Shannon and Bill working in our pharmacy.

these medical mission trips is that we also work side by side with people from Mexico. Our receptionist and most of our interpreters were members of Fuente de Vida, the Methodist Church in Agua Prieta that houses the clinic, and we had two Mexican dentists tending to the many needs of people's teeth. We also held a 'wellness-check' clinic at a nearby church on Friday with the church's pastor serving as the interpreter. It is amazing to watch our mission team from all walks of life come together and be joined by people from Mexico who also volunteered their time to form a tight-knit functioning clinic for two days.

Friday started out in full swing with people filling up the waiting room quickly, then moving into triage and the various exam rooms. Our lunches and dinners on clinic days were prepared by the ladies of the Fuente de Vida church in their Community Room. After our first lunch on Friday, Glen showed us around the area and shared Fuente de Vida's story with us.

This very poor community started off as a squatter settlement with people independently constructing their own houses out of wood or cinder blocks, many houses



The waiting room—always a bustling place.

with no plumbing or electricity (still). Poverty and lack of infrastructure have made for a difficult life, especially as the nearby factories shut down. Diego and Gela Lopez first started to reach out to this area by simply passing out blankets to the poor. Diego Lopez, later ordained through the Methodist Church of Mexico, and his wife Gela felt led to help the people here and start a church in 2000. The Arizona Methodist Conference decided to take this on as a mission-start. The Arizona Methodist Church's seed-planting strategy is to start fully supporting new churches the first year, then decrease support each year until the new church is fully self sufficient after five years. While this strategy works elsewhere, it does not take into account new churches in poverty-stricken neighborhoods where church members simply do not have the money to support their emerging church. In the midst of this five-year step-down support plan, Pastor Diego and another church pastor were victims in a car accident that killed them both. Gela felt such dedication to the Fuente de Vida church that she studied and sought her own ordination through the United Methodist Church of Mexico and continued on as the church's pastor. Now she no longer receives support from the Arizona United Methodist Conference, but some individuals and churches in the US who have been touched by Gela's vision contribute money to support her and her two school-aged children. It isn't enough, but for



Susan and Faye taking vitals before patients see the doctor.

the time being she continues pastoring the church, which has grown into a vibrant, God-filled fixture of the community. Glen showed us the permanent church building the members are building, replacing a trailer they had previously used as the sanctuary for worship. Church members work on it as money for construction becomes available. The first floor is finished and is used for worship, and they have plans to build a second floor where they can have Bible study classes and other activities.

On Saturday night, after the second day of the clinic, the Fuente de Vida congregation put on a special church service in appreciation of our work in the clinic. It was a powerful service with their band playing worship songs, Gela and Glen preaching, and others sharing how God had touched and changed them through this church and community. The joy in the room and the Holy Spirit's presence were strong. Barriers melted away, and we Americans and Mexicans shared with each other how we appreciated each other and how we were awed by the love of God in each other. Our mission team felt part of this wonderful community in Agua Prieta.

The church service, the clinic, and our time in Mexico ended, and it was time to return home. But we will never forget our weekend there and all that God was able to accomplish through this mission trip.

We are already trying to figure out when we can be part of another FaithWorks team to return to Agua Prieta.

Lisa Kearsley, Missioner/Interpreter

Comments by some of the Mexico missioners:

"When the trumpeters and singers were as one....the glory of the Lord filled the house of God. 2 Chronicles 5:13-14
Paraphase: When the guitars, keyboard and the singers & dancers were as one....the joy of the Lord filled the house of God.
What a praise service we have with our Christian friends in Agua Prieta."
Linda

"Thank you so much for allowing me to be a part of the mission trip to Agua Prieta. It was a life-changing experience and I hope my work there helped....I would love to go on another future trip with FaithWorks and could definitely go back to Agua Prieta...thank you again for letting me join you....the work you do is inspiring and much-needed."
Susan

"This trip affirms for me again, that love and compassion knows no borders!"
Martha

"I was touched by the testimony of one lady stating her daughter accepted Christ after we were able to help her skin problem that other doctors hadn't been able to help. There is a reason we go..."
Bill



Dr. Lewis with his Mexican interpreter, XX?



Denise, doing physical therapy.

MISSION TEAMS STILL OPEN FOR 2012, SO FAR:

We Our mission teams fill up very quickly so we want you to know which are still open:

- April 7.....Living Waters Retreat Center, Cornville, AZ.
- May 5.....Northstar Youth Ranch, Flagstaff, AZ.
- July 8-14.....McCurdy Mission School, Espanola, NM
- Oct. 15.....Leupp, Navajo Indian Reservation, Leupp, AZ.
- Nov. 15-18.....Medical Mission to Mexico
- Dec.1.....Christmas Mission to Leupp, AZ.

"I hesitate and smile every time I write your names...I do have a heart for missions, and FaithWorks is His healing answer to my times of "should have/could have" woes.
I smile, knowing that I can do something as well as pray and encourage FaithWorks which came into my life just as I retired from secular work."
Annetta

Another missioner's reflections...

If you are interested in any of these please contact the FaithWorks office now to put your name on the list. We thank each and every one of you who have expressed a desire to go on 'mission' to help those less fortunate than ourselves, but we also want to respect the 'host' and not bring too big a team so as to overwhelm and not help!



We had lots of help shoveling at the Olive Branch mission.

NOTICE: DONATE BY EFT!

FaithWorks has the capability of accepting Donations by Electronic Funds Transfer! It is very convenient and eliminates having to write a check and saves postage. If you would like to donate monthly by EFT please call the office at 928-774-0504 and we will mail you a form to fill out, or you can go to our website at faithworks4us.org to get the form. After the form is filled out mail it to FaithWorks, 3600 N. Fourth St., Flagstaff, AZ 86004.

FAITHWORKS NEEDS:

We collect the following for our various mission sites: Discarded reading and prescription eye glasses; vitamins (adults and children's) Beanie Babies; senior nutritional drinks (Ensure, etc.); good condition baby clothes; toys; furnishings; new toothbrushes & toothpaste. Can you help supply any of these items? If so, please mail them to us or contact us for a drop-off point for us to pick them up.

OPERATIONAL NEEDS:

- Help on "Utility Reimbursement" to express appreciation for our donated office space each month.
- Assistance of mechanic talent and expertise to keep up maintenance of the FaithWorks pick up and trailer for our missions.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- Larry & Betsy Hale, for the two digital cameras!
- Michael & Karen Bradford for the gift towards a new video camera! Both of these wonderful gifts will be great tools for documenting our trips to the various mission sites, so we can share them with you!
- Many thanks to Dennis Alcantar for the gift of the senior nutritional drinks that were taken out to the Navajo Senior Center in Leupp. They could really use them!

FAITHWORKS FINANCIAL REPORT GENERAL FUND JAN 1 - FEB 29, 2012

REVENUE:	AMOUNT	BUDGETED	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
Donations from Churches	\$4,394	\$6,500	\$(2,106)
Donations from Individuals	\$6,135	\$12,083	\$(5,948)
Church Membership Dues	\$825	\$333	\$ 492
Other Revenue	\$1,631	\$2,249	\$(618)
Total Revenue	\$12,985	\$21,165	\$(8,180)
OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$19,954	\$20,475	\$(521)
Net of Expense over Revenue	(\$6,970)		

We appreciate so much each of you that contributes so faithfully to FaithWorks. We ended 2011 with only a \$373.86 Deficit and we thank God for so many of you who have a heart for missions! However, we are already running short this year with expense exceeding our revenue by \$ 6970 through Feb 29, 2012. We have also been able to keep our expenses below budget for the two months by about \$500. 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 \$1,110 from Jan 1-Feb 29, 2012 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.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!

www.faithworks4us.org

Please visit us at our revamped website. We have new links covering different aspects of FaithWorks, a link to photos of past mission trips, a dynamic calendar showing upcoming mission trips, and a link to past Common Task newsletters, the most recent of which are in color!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that over 200 of YOU went on a FaithWorks Mission in the year 2011?
THANK YOU!

It is impossible to think of the "number" of folks that were blessed by your "going."

If you have never gone on a FaithWorks Mission, then try it! You'll like it! Just sign up, pay your own way, and FaithWorks does the rest!

And if you'd like to be a "Repeat-Missioner" (a person who has gone on numerous missions with F/W) contact us again!

The "mission-field" is sometimes outside of our comfort-level but with God all things become "comfortable."

FaithWorks office: 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 _____



Faye Willis has signed up for all three Mexico mission trips in 2012. Here she is with some of the patients in February.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!

Mission Trip Participants, January - March, 2012

Youth Haven Ranch Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Henry McLaughlin, Billy Martin, Sidney Springstead

Mexico Medical Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Bill & Shannon Bradel, Tony Book, Faye Willis, Katy Gutzwiller, Susan Hamilton, Lisa Kearsley, Denise Kriese, Steve Lewis, David Sturm, Martha Wing, Anita Oquita, Linda VanDeren

Olive Branch Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Darrel & Yvonne English, George & Debbie Ansbach, Mick, Renee, Ethan, & Kyle Henry, Lisa & Jak Kearsley, Clint Miller, Randy & Debbi Sealover, Bill Stafford, Teddy Todd, Billy Martin, Bob Norton, Camp Verde United Methodist youth and leaders: Stacey Christmann, Courtney Johnson, Jason Kulcher, Alan Emory, Eric Haynie, Tina, Samantha, & Gwendy Plainbull

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 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
Executive Director	Glen Allen

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OFFICE LOCATION

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(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!



Address Service Requested

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