

THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

FAITHWORKS

December 2014



THE CHRISTMAS WE CHOOSE

During these weeks leading up to Christmas each year, I always gather the feeling that I'm being stampeded into a commercial festival of sorts. What with the news items of big box stores staging their "Black Friday" spectacles, it's tempting to think that the real meaning of Christmas has vanished from our culture.

Yet, there are encouraging signs. Ellen Davis, vice president of the National Retail Federation, has noted that "...in 2009, retailers began returning to a traditional Christmas. And, there wasn't much push-back either...there wasn't a huge outcry from groups offended that retailers were saying 'Merry Christmas'."

This is a great time each year to seize whatever opportunities we have to speak up for Christmas. It's time to choose the kind of Christmas we have! Let's remind ourselves that we're not to "let the world squeeze us into its mold" *Romans 12:1*.

At the Navajo Children's Christmas Mission, Saturday, Dec.6th, 2014, our incredible Santa Claus was a part of an outstanding team of 24 volunteer missionaries who "take Christmas out to the Reservation," 23 miles north of Flagstaff. He displayed for us a model of giving that taught some wonderful

lessons to Navajos of every age who were present that day. As he took a gift from the over 275 that were donated for the mission, he would hand the gender/age



appropriate gift to the child and then say, "Now, why don't you go over to my elf-helpers and pick out another gift to give to someone special to you." It teaches that we can receive and give generously to someone else.

That's what Jesus said, isn't it? "It is more blessed to give than receive" *Acts. 20:15*.

Let me say how grateful I am to each and every one of you who give so generously to FaithWorks all year long – not just at Christmas – so we can keep on choosing to be a blessing to those around us and across the world!

On Mission With You, and a Very Merry Christmas,

Glen



The entire mission team unloading the Christmas gifts from the FaithWorks trailer into the church.

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
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Secretary	Lisa Tenbarge
Treasurer	Polly Philpott
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm; Friday 9 am - noon

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

NAVAJO CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MISSION

We had a beautiful day December 6th, joining with our Navajo neighbors at Pastor Dean and Lola Bahe's church to celebrate Christmas and God's love on the southern edge of the Navajo Reservation. Fog and clouds gave us partial views of the cinder hills and more distant San Francisco Peaks on this calm Saturday. This day was particularly special because we had the opportunity to share the Christmas story and Christmas giving with our Navajo neighbors, thus acting upon God's commandment to love your neighbor as yourself.

Our team was made up of 24 people from 12 different churches, from pre-teens to well along in years, some having been here multiple times, others here for the first time. The day was not without challenges. A traffic accident on I-40 delayed some on our team over two hours. The electricity initially wouldn't start, and a generator, battery, jumper cable, and know-how was required to get it going. But we all worked to make it come together.

We arrived loaded with over 270 gifts from the many donating churches, two dozen quilts from one of our member churches, and coats for the cold winter months. A person from another of our member churches brought, split, and stacked a load of firewood—their third load this year—to be used by the Bahes to keep their building warm. We also brought and prepared a midday meal for all.

At noon we started the Christmas service. We sang Christmas carols, heard the Christmas story, and listened to Pastor Bahe and Glen Allen's reflections both in English and Navajo. Then we ushered in Santa Claus, made possible yet again by Glen Allen, who had uplifting words to say for the children. They came forward to see him, a bit shyly this year, they received a gift, then had a chance

to pick out another gift that they could give to someone else. Adults came up to Santa, too, receiving and picking out and gift to give. We had more gifts than people to receive them, and the extra gifts will be distributed to people throughout the reservation by Pastor Dean and Lola.

After the service, we gathered in the community building for our shared meal, complete with turkey, side dishes, and an infinite number of cupcakes. We had the chance then to talk with the people who came. I met and talked with a Navajo couple over the meal. When I asked about their house, I learned that it, like so many on the reservation, was without indoor plumbing or electricity. Also, their wood burning stove wasn't functional, and they were having trouble receiving one from the tribal government. A fellow missionary, upon hearing their situation, has an extra wood burning stove in Flagstaff, so we will work towards getting that stove to them. God does amazing work connecting people's needs with other people's ability to meet those needs, doesn't He?

Pastor Bahe has some serious medical issues that have resulted in multiple visits to the hospital this year. It has been difficult for him and Lola to continue with all that is involved maintaining their church. We at FaithWorks talk with them often, visit him during his hospital stays, and are helping them in any way we can. We are so glad they and their congregation were able to be with us this day to celebrate Christmas together and be thankful for all God has given us through the years.

Lisa Kearsley

To see more of these and other mission trip pictures in color, visit faithworks4us.org.



Dear Glen and Jan,

Thank you both....Going on this little mission makes my Christmas! I told friends and family I was no longer doing Christmas a couple of years ago as for years I have abhorred all the waste when others had little - and usually we need nothing at all. I look forward to this now - my third year -as the place to be, and I look forward with great anticipation to it so count me in next year.

Have a Blessed Christmas you two...you are my heroes.

Mary Kantor

NAVAJO CONSTRUCTION MISSION TO LEUPP, ARIZONA

Saturday, October 11th had to be the most perfect and unusual weather day ever at Leupp, on the southern Navajo Reservation Border—NO WIND! Those of you who have been out there know what we’re talking about.

Fifteen volunteers from four different churches around Arizona joined forces to work on the *Church of God Holiness* and pastor Dean and Lola Bahe’s rural home. Much fun and hard work!

We worked on painting, roofing, plumbing, dry wall, cleaning, window washing, and an assortment of other tasks that day, all with a heart for “helping those less fortunate than us.” And the Lord blessed the work and the workers.



A load of donated firewood for Pastor Dean and Lola Bahe’s home in Leupp, Arizona.

MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION

The 35th FaithWorks medical mission to Mexico, Nov. 20-23, has been accomplished, and I was lucky enough to be part of the team of 13 from 8 different churches. Not only did I get to fully participate in all the weekend activities, but I was given the chance to refresh my basic nursing and triage skills, and I improved my Spanish. I had a lot of fun too!

If you have ever joined a FaithWorks mission of any sort, or if you want to in the future, be assured that you will be prepared and sent out properly by Glen and Jan Allen, true Christian servants. Pre-planning meetings, transportation and housing needs, and work site preparation are built on a strong Christian foundation using qualified leaders. Attitudes and expectations are dealt with prior to and during the missions. Joy is added because of the support of so many prayer partners from all over the map!

During our 6-hour van road trip, I witnessed the deft way in which the team dealt with unforeseen activities. A missing trailer axle cap was noticed during our first gas stop. Glen was quick to find a parts store nearby to get it replaced. A planned stop to drop off donated glasses at an optometrist's office in Casa Grande was met with a "gone for the day" sign. That mission was accomplished on our return home. At the border, a couple cases of children's vitamins were examined and kept by the Mexican Border Patrol. Some very generous people resupplied our loss.

The medical clinic is in Colonia Empacadora, of Agua Prieta, Mexico, just across the border from Douglas, AZ. FaithWorks has been staffing it three times a year, for the last 10 years, two days each time, plus supplying it with clothing and medicine from the FaithWorks storage in Douglas. There was already a line of clients waiting for the clinic as we set up. When word of the open clinic went out on the radio, we got busier—290 clients in two days! Our team was comprised of three doctors, three

nurses, a physical therapist, two teachers, a local dentist, an EMT, and folks like me with medical mission interest at heart. Delicious meals were provided by local women of the *Fuente De Vida* church. It was a happy time for volunteers and clients with so many blessings: renewed relationships, awe in realizing the growth of the Pastor Gela's congregation and the newly completed all-purpose building.

We left behind gifts of 48 brand new Spanish Bibles and \$1045 to buy 250 stacking chairs for the church.

The FaithWorks effort in Agua Prieta will continue in February 2015, not only with clinic services but also with the opportunity for doctors at the local hospital to receive continuing medical education from our expertly qualified team doctors and staff. The storage facility in Douglas now sits supplied with donated warm clothing, cartons of vitamins, wheelchairs, and soon, bicycles for Colonia men to get to work.

This mission was truly a time of thanksgiving for me. I hope to go again. Thank you for your prayers and your donations. Check out www.faithworks4us.org for information on all the 2015 mission trips.

Suzie Dunn, R.N.



REVENUE:	AMOUNT	BUDGETED	OVER (UNDER) BUDGET
Donations from Churches	\$35,242	\$26,583	\$8,659
Donations from Individuals	\$55,601	\$72,050	\$(16,449)
Church Membership Dues	\$1,650	\$1,833	\$(183)
Other Revenue	\$15,873	\$10,688	\$5,184
Total Revenue	\$108,366	\$111,155	\$(2,789)
OPERATING EXPENSES:	\$110,702	\$112,834	\$(2,132)
Net of Expense over Revenue	(\$2,336)		

For the 11-month period of Jan 1-Nov 30, 2014, FaithWorks is running somewhat short in the amount of \$2,336 in our General Fund. Any help with this deficit would be so appreciated as FaithWorks continues to do God’s work through missions. We have also received \$59,337 in designated funds this year. These funds are for special projects in Africa, Honduras, the Navajo Reservation, Mexico, and many local missions. One hundred percent of these funds is used for the project it was designated for.

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

CHECK OUT THE COLOR PHOTOS

We have gotten behind adding photos to our website, but with some renewed vigor, they now are uploaded and ready to view. Check out the many photos from the Africa, Honduras, and other mission trips, including ones from the Leupp Christmas mission trip completed just last week. To save on costs, we print our newsletter in black and white, so on the website you can see many more photos, and in color!

Go to **Faithworks4us.org**, and click on the “photos” tab—it’s that easy!

Dear Glen, Jan and Faithworks team

I want to take this opportunity to thank the experience we had last weekend.

Every time God gives us the opportunity to serve in a medical brigade, He gives us the ability to establish His kingdom on our earth.

I want to thank you for the gift you gave me, so much love, I prayed for God to provide for the economic needs and this gift is God’s answer to us. We will look for good chairs for the building and soon find them.

Thanks to each of the participants in this medical brigade, doctors, nurses, aides, and even those who came but not physically supported with donations and prayers.

We look forward to seeing you next February and will be working to coordinate the work we do together even better.

We love you.

*Pastora Gela and Fuente de Vida Church
Agua Prieta, Mexico*



Some of our meal servers at the FaithWorks Navajo Children’s Christmas mission.

Please visit our website, **FaithWorks4us.org** to see the mission trips planned for 2015. Thanks!

FAITHWORKS WISH LIST:

- A volunteer to take charge of all FW vehicle maintenance – truck, van, and trailer.
- A vehicle maintenance fund of \$1000 to draw from as needed.
- New metal roofing for the Leupp Mission building (300 sq. ft.) over the kitchen.
- \$2000 to add to the *Youth Mission trip Scholarship Fund*.
- Spanish Bibles for the Mexico mission – \$500.
- New printer and cartridges for the FaithWorks office – \$300.
- Larger TV screen & DVD player for FaithWorks mission team training room/board room.
- \$100/month to help pay for utility costs at the FaithWorks office.

Can you help us with any of these needs? If so, please contact us at 928-774-0504. Thank you!

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 _____

WHEN IT RAINS, IT POURS, VITAMINS!

We were contacted by a friend who attends a FaithWorks-member church in Paradise Valley, Arizona, that he knew of a food-supplement company eager to get rid of some vitamins.

“Were we interested?” After getting the details of what kind, how many, and expiration dates, we said “Yes” to this blessing. It turns out that there were 32 pallets, each of which had of 3500 bottles of vitamins. Due to storage constraints, we were only able to take two pallet loads. We have a great relationship with this company now, and they will keep our missions in mind when other things like this come up.

We now have a shipping container and a storage room filled with usable adult/children’s vitamins! We will be able to utilize them in Mexico, on the Navajo Reservation, and in Africa for at least the next couple of years in combating the malnutrition we see so often.

THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!

Mission Trip Participants, October - December, 2014

Navajo Reservation Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Jim Bachus & Sharon Joseph, Michael, Sarah, Chanell & Jamie Combs, Jeff & Suzie Dunn, Jim & Thelma Long, Carolyn & Norris Peterson, Alexis Knapp

Mexico Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Dave Sorenson, Steve & Vickie Lewis, Faye Willis, Suzie Dunn, Perry & Brenda Mitchell, Matilde Liebe, Brooke Wiley, Lisa TenBarge

Leupp Christmas party Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Michael, Sarah, Chanell, & Jamie Combs, Michael, Karen, & Nizhoni Bradford, Bud & Barbara Parenteau, Lisa Kearsley, Alan & Pat Purchase, Annette Schleicher, Clint Miller & Kelly, Jim Bachus & Sharon Joseph, Mary Kantor, Alan Adams, Joan Stoner, Anne Benson, Karla Weir, Sergio Guerrero & son

Volunteer Staff

Jan Allen - Mission Trip Coordinator; Ilene Hodgkin - Prayer Coordinator; Kelly Campbell - Financial Secretary; Polly Philpott - Treasurer; Lisa Kearsley - Editor, ‘The Common Task’; Office team: Pete Piper, Kelly Campbell, Teddy Scott, Marie Kieft, Barbara Bryant, Victoria Walgren, Ilene Harral-Hodgin, Jane Holden, Ray Henry, and Joni Zarlingo; Roger Holden - In kind gifts coordinator



The wide open space around Pastor Dean and Lola Bahe's church on the Navajo Reservation near Leupp on Dec. 6th.



New signs for the cargo trailer we use so often, donated by Jeff Peterson, Sign-A-Rama, Flagstaff, Arizona



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