

# THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

# FAITHWORKS

March 2015

## WELL, WHY DON'T WE?

One of the least known, and even less utilized passages in the Bible is *Matthew 24:12* "...and because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

It's an interesting verse, especially as it applies to missions. Is it a commentary or proverb that describes our modern American church culture?

Perhaps the best way to summarize or paraphrase it would be, "*Because the world is full of evil distractions, our hearts are taken away from that once-upon-a-time commitment we made to God to put Him first in our lives.*"

I've known various folks through the 38 years of my ministry who were once in love with God's will for their lives, confessing and agreeing that God would be in charge. It was an observable certainty that they meant business. There was no coercion that led them to that intention—it was genuine by all who saw it!

Then, at some point, we've all seen it happen, by their choices, decision and habits they begin to drift dangerously away from their first love. That's what happened to the church at Ephesus, surrounded by 1<sup>st</sup> century paganism, "...*thou hast left thy first love.*" (*Rev. 2:4*)

But if you were to ask these spiritual drifters, "What has happened to you?" They might disagree believing they're doing just fine with God's call upon them to go and share the gospel through both word and deed. Yet, they don't do what they say. Their walk doesn't match their talk.



*The Medical Mission Trip, Agua Prieta, Sonora.*

Let me illustrate with an incident from my contracting business days that happened 20 years ago in Williams, Arizona. I was doing a kitchen remodel for a client that lived near a prominent intersection in town. He told me that every day lately, there was a panhandler on this corner that held a rough cardboard sign that said, "WILL WORK FOR FOOD." After nearly a week of this, knowing that several of his friends in the area had offered him some work, the drifter was still there, same place, with the same sign.

Then, this client said to me, "You know, I just want to stop and ask him, 'Well, why don't ya?'"

You see, it seemed to my friend that the drifter apparently never really meant what the sign said. Otherwise he wouldn't have been standing on the corner for a week having already been offered several jobs.

Does Jesus' forecast above in Matthew 24 describe us in these days? Oh, my, there's so much deception, wrong doing and evil loose in the world today! No one who tunes into electronic or printed media can deny that. It affects us!

Is that why many churches are weak or waning? Does this explain why so few Christians respond to God's call to missions? Could it be that some folks have just simply lost their love? Hearts grown cold?

The solution is simple. "*Repent, and do your first work.*" (*Rev. 2:4*) That's what was urged for the Ephesian church. I believe it's the same for us today. "God First" can be possible for us. Once again we can see the "church leave the building," changing our part of the world through loving others.

Let's not be found standing on a spiritual street corner in our lives with our sign, "WILL SERVE THE LORD." And never take the work that's offered so frequently and then have someone stop and say,

"...Well, why don't ya?"

On Mission With You, Glen Allen



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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	Phil Off
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!



*The El Nathan Mission team, ready to paint.*

## 2015 FAITHWORKS MISSIONS:

Below is a list of the rest of this year's mission trips. Details can be found in the [Faithworks4us.org](http://Faithworks4us.org) website (click on the "calendar" tab, then click on the date) or by looking at a 2015 brochure or by calling the FaithWorks office at 928-774-0504. Please remember they are filling up quickly, so it is best to sign up soon. We hope you will consider going "on mission" in 2015 with FaithWorks!

- March 7.....The Olive Branch Ministries, Verde Valley, AZ
- May 2.....Camp Civitan, Williams, AZ
- May 21-24.....Mexico Medical Mission, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- June 13.....Arizona Mission Conference, Flagstaff, AZ
- July 1 -15..... African Medical Ministry, Tanzania, East Africa
- August 9-17.....Partnering with Habitat For Humanity, Anchorage, Alaska
- September 10-12.....Mexico Supply Mission, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- October 10.....Navajo Construction Mission, Leupp, Arizona
- November 19-22.....Mexico Medical Mission, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- December 5.....The Navajo Children's Christmas mission, Leupp, Arizona

# PAINTING OUT THE VISION

Saturday, January 24, 2015 marked our very first mission of the year and our 166<sup>th</sup> mission since our founding June 1, 2000! We had 14 missionaries from 6 different churches meet at El Nathan Ministries Camp in Flagstaff, Arizona, at 8am on a chilly but clear morning.

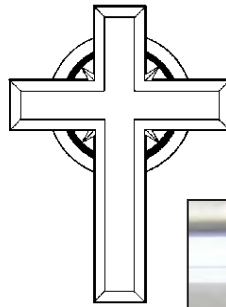
Established as the vision of early missionaries to Northern Arizona in the 1930's, this rambling site at the base of Mt. Elden was intended to serve as a ministry to Navajo shepherders' children, brought off the vast Navajo Reservation across Northern Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Here these children were taught the Gospel and encouraged in their Christian faith.

As the years went by, the camp became open to wider purposes as well—a retreat center for churches, Bible studies and conferences, children's and youth meetings, and men's & women groups from on and off the Reservation. Nowadays, groups from all over the United States especially those visiting the Grand Canyon, come to use the facilities.

Our mission in January was painting, painting and more painting! We split into three work groups and our goal was to paint the inside of a classroom/dormitory, a large bath/shower room, and touch-up in two chapels and other buildings. Team spirit was high as we participated in this needed facility's continued restoration. By 3:30 we were all done. All of us had paint splotches and smiles on our faces and serious aches in our arms and hands. What a wonderful feeling though, to "hurt" for the Lord's work!



*To see more of these and other mission trip pictures in color, visit [www.faihtworks4us.org](http://www.faihtworks4us.org).*



# THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING!

Nothing says “missions” like that simple statement imprinted on the back of every T-shirt that every Mexico medical Mission team member wore on the Feb. 19-22 trip to Agua Prieta, Sonora.

This was our 36<sup>th</sup> mission to Mexico, where we have spent 10 years serving the very poor *Colonia Empacadora*. We had 13 missionaries, one all the way from Connecticut, from 11 different churches. We were convinced once again of our long-held strategy that “short-term missions to a repeated destination have a long-term effect.” We now have an increased number of native Mexican assistants joining the team—a dentist, interpreters, and cooks.

Because of this “across the border friendship,” in two days of clinic, we were able to see and treat 253 patients plus dental patients. Plus play with and witness to numerous children in the neighborhood.

This mission trip was a gift of thousands of dollars of value to this church-sponsored local clinic.

Many thanks to each of you who pray for and contribute materials, finances, and prayers for the success of each of these Mexico missions!



To see more of these and other mission trip pictures in color, visit [www.faithworks4us.org](http://www.faithworks4us.org).

## REINVENTING THE WHEEL

We've just returned from the Mexico Medical Mission to Agua Prieta, Sonora, Mexico where so many men and women cannot afford a car for transportation to work. In conjunction with this trip, we were able to help meet that need

In January the Williams Police Department unexpectedly gave us 47 impounded bicycles. Soon after, we transported half of the bicycles to the FaithWorks storage unit in Douglas, just across the border from Agua Prieta. With the help of Bud and Barbara Parenteau, we will transport the rest of the bicycles down and across the border into Mexico later.

These bicycles will help men and women get to their jobs in town and out to the fields and ranches. We strongly believe in encouraging self-reliance and initiative in those we serve wherever that may be. Too, this gives the church there just one more way to reach out to the community with Christ's love in a very practical way.

Special thanks go to Bud and Barbara Parenteau who were so very instrumental in arranging this wonderful gift!



### FAITHWORKS WISH LIST:

- A vehicle maintenance fund of \$1000 to draw from as needed.
- New metal roofing for the Leupp Navajo 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.
- 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. Any assistance would be appreciated!

### GIFTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Thank you to Wes and Kathy Vosburgh of Heber, Arizona, for the gift of a like-new computer printer for our office in Flagstaff!

### NEW VEHICLE MAINTENANCE MINISTRY!

We are so very grateful for George Stidham who has volunteered to oversee the upkeep of our three vehicles: the pickup truck, the van, and the cargo trailer. A VA Rehabilitation Counselor in Flagstaff, a gifted "hobby" mechanic, George recently had one of his cars in the famed Barrett-Jackson Auto Show in Scottsdale.

When I expressed gratitude for his new ministry among us, George's answer was, "This is the way I like to worship!" Thanks George...

## THANK YOU!

And the King answered them and said, "In as much as you did it to one of these my brothers, you did it to me!" *Matt. 25:40*

Thanks to so many of you, FaithWorks ended the year, 2014, with an excess of Revenue over Expense by \$3,163. We are so thankful for your generosity and your heart for missions. We look forward to continuing to serve Our Lord Jesus Christ by helping so many needy people here in Northern Arizona as well as in Mexico, Africa, and Alaska during 2015. Thank you for your continued prayers, support, and participation as we serve in mission together!

## ARIZONA MISSIONS CONFERENCE JUNE 13

Our very first Mission's Conference: a gathering for education, information, inspiration, and equipping of God's people to share the Gospel throughout the world in obedience to Matthew 28:19-20.

It will be held at The Church of the Resurrection, Flagstaff, AZ, June 13, 2015, from 8am – 4:30pm.

If you would like to attend please call the FaithWorks Flagstaff office at 928-774-0504. The cost is \$30 per person for lunch and supplies.

## AFRICA MEDICAL MISSION, JULY 1-15

Are you a doctor or a nurse who has a longing to serve the wonderful people of Africa? FaithWorks has a clinic in Karatu, Tanzania that we serve in and are planning to take at least 4 doctors (2 of them men) and nurses to serve in this capacity.

We are needing to know who is interested in going to Tanzania, Africa, July 1 – 15, 2015. The cutoff date for this mission will be March 16 in order for us to make flight reservations and train the team. Please contact Jan Allen, Trip Coordinator, if you are interested, at 928-567-0092. The cost is \$4620, which includes everything you will need for the 16-day mission.

## ALASKA MISSION, AUGUST 9 - 17

Once again FaithWorks is taking a mission team to the great state of Alaska! If you would like to join the team please let us know soon. The cutoff date for this team will be April 30 in order to make flight arrangements and train the team. Please contact Jan Allen, Trip Coordinator, at 928-567-0092 for more info or to place your registration. The team will be working with Habitat 4 Humanity in Anchorage, Alaska August 9 – 17, 2015. The cost is \$400 plus airfare, which has been around \$600 in recent years.



Africa



### NEW STAFF PERSON

"The Board of Directors has hired Kelly Campbell, a 6-year volunteer staff member, to fill the new position of part-time 'Assistant Office Manger' in the Flagstaff office. We thank God for Kelly and this new point of growth."



Alaska

**COVERED TRAILER / TRANSPORTER**

This is a nominal 8' x16' 10,000 lb capacity unit. Drop down tailgate dimensions 7'3" wide by 6'0" high. First registered in 1996 as a flat bed trailer, then the box added along with electric brakes. The floor and the tailgate are reinforced for use as a transporter / car hauler. Tires good, wheel hubs replaced a few years ago. Currently used as a tool store / mobile workshop. Very sturdy unit.

To be sold "as-is" \$3,000 OBO.

The money we receive from this sale will go to FaithWorks mission causes.

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Sharing Christ's love, this wonderful mission team of 21 people from 9 different churches and 6 different cities came together in the Navajo Nation at Christmas, distributing gifts and providing a sumptuous meal and firewood.*



**THANKS FOR ALL YOU DO TO SUPPORT FAITHWORKS!**

**Mission Trip Participants, January - February, 2015**

*El Nathan Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Polly Philpott & Jayme, Joan Stoner, Ken, Jennifer & Abby Youngberg, Alan Purchase, Ray & Sue Chester, Jane Emberty, Annetta Follmer, Cindy Harvey*

*Mexico Mission Team—Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Dave Hoffman, Rick Brothers, Faye Willis, Dave & Gigi Sorenson, Steve & Vickie Lewis, Luz Bradley, Matilde Liebe, Betsy Hale*

**Volunteer Staff**

*Jan Allen - Mission Trip Coordinator; Ilene Hodgin - Prayer Coordinator; Kelly Campbell - Asst. Office Manager; Polly Philpott - Treasurer; Lisa Kearsley - Editor, 'The Common Task'; Roger Holden - In Kind Gifts Coordinator; George Stidham - Vehicle Maintenance Director; Office team: Pete Piper, Teddy Scott, Marie Kieft, Barbara Bryant, Ilene Harral-Hodgin, Jane Holden, and Joni Zarlingo*



*FaithWorks vehicles full of bicycles that were taken to Agua Prieta, Mexico, to be donated to the people of Colonia Empacadora so they could more easily get to work.*



*Jennifer Youngberg painting away at El Nathan on FaithWorks' first mission of the year, January 24<sup>th</sup>.*

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