

# THE COMMON TASK



A PUBLICATION OF

Matthew 28:18-20

# FAITHWORKS

December 2017



## BIGGER BARNES AND CHRISTMAS!

Seems the US economy is roaring back! Consumer confidence is at the highest in years! New car sales are booming! The DOW is breaking records! Large parcels of land in Flagstaff that have sat vacant for decades have the heavy equipment of commercial development crawling all over them! Christmas shopping (and traffic) is going great guns! Three cheers for it all!

But, there's a word of caution. The Bible is clear and crisp in the good news of Luke 12. It's chock-full of wealth management advice from Jesus. One version heads this passage "Discerning The Times." Verses 16-21 lay out the classic passage entitled "The Parable of the Rich Fool." It describes an agricultural businessman who has more wealth built up than he knows what to do with. That's the "rich" part. Then, consulting only with himself, "What shall I do?" he embarks on a self-centered, self-absorbed, ego trip that ends in outlandish, conspicuous consumption which he justifies by coining for himself his own hedonistic words to live by, "Eat, Drink, and be Merry!" (v.19)

That earns for him that

ominous pronouncement from our Eternal Savior, "Thou Fool!" (That's the "Fool" part). Why? "He chose to lay up treasure for himself and was not rich towards God!" (v.21)

And so, you may ask, "your point?" Well, in light of what becomes for us an annual American Christmas spending orgy, this earthly story telling a heavenly truth can be very instructive.



You and I can take several truths from this gem of Scripture at Christmas time. First, there's nothing wrong with "bigger barns" – just don't forget God in the process. The Bible says, "To whom much has been given, much will be required." *Luke 12:48*

Second, our stewardship of "things" is important in this life and influences the next. Contrast "Bigger Barns" to that "Tiny Stable" in Luke 2, where a Father gave Christmas away for all of us. That first Christmas was a completely sacrificial act of God giving up and giving us a Son that changed the world forever!

Be careful of bigger barns. And use whatever wealth you have now, this Christmas, to do good for someone who would never have that unless you gave.

On Mission With You and a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS 2017!

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## THE CHURCH HAS LEFT THE BUILDING – AGAIN!

On November 9-12, yet another Mexico medical mission was a joyful and successful experience of Christians joining together across denominational lines to express the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both word and action.

This was our 47<sup>th</sup> Mexico medical mission in 17 years, comprised of 15 missionaries from 9 different churches across Arizona. Dr. Bill Austin served as the pediatrician, Dr. Rick Brothers provided primary care for adults, and Camelia Gembala was our excellent female healthcare provider. R.N. Gigi Sorenson organized and served in the pharmacy. Our other two nurses, Linda VanDeren and Faye Willis both retired and longtime missionaries with FaithWorks did a great job *again* in the triage room.

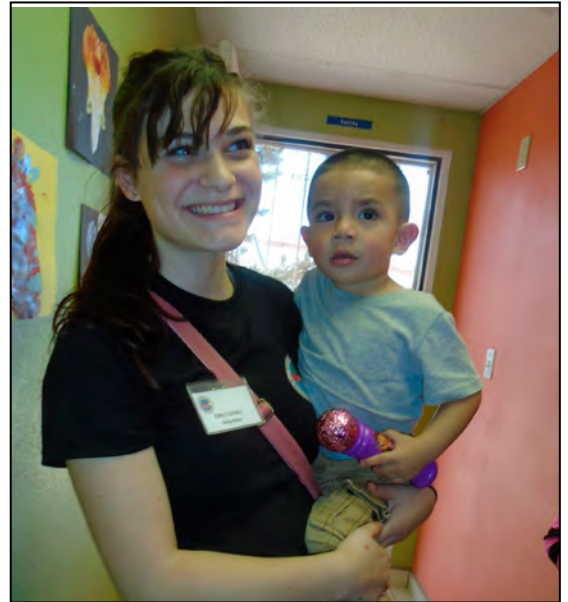
And once again, we had two wonderful Mexican dentists on site that joined us for both days of the clinic. Kathy Marvin, a retired teacher from Sierra Vista, came self-contained to care for and teach the Mexican children coming to the clinic, utilizing her outstanding skills in art and music. Along with Kathy came Anita Oquita, also from Sierra Vista. She serves as an excellent interpreter for the team.

Two committed Christian servants, Bud and Barbara Parenteau, came all the way from Williams (near the Grand Canyon) to deliver 15 bicycles donated by the Williams Police Dept! The bikes are intended to help with transportation to jobs in Agua Prieta.

All in all, together the team treated 288 medical and dental patients, ministered to over 100 kids, distributed over 90 Beanie Babies, encouraged the young, emerging Mexican church leaders and made some needed clinic building repairs – again!

We continue to see new faces on our missions too. Amy Casali and her daughter Emily assisted in a variety of valuable ways as did Margo Braman from Sedona who gave of herself in many needed clerical tasks. Her church in Sedona gave a “carload” of much-needed supplies too!

It continues to amaze us and fill our hearts with gratitude when we see the “church leave the building” and go into the world, serving in self-sacrificing ways, glorifying the Lord Jesus Christ!





Emily Casali, 15, went on her first Mexico Medical Mission trip in November with her mom, Amy. On the drive home she told her mom how she couldn't wait to go back for the the next mission trip in February. A couple days later, after reflecting on her mission experience, she told her, "I feel like my faith has been reignited."



### OUR NEEDS

We are in need of the following for our mission work:

- Prayers for our financial health in operating expenses
- Prayers for our staff, trip leaders and board of directors
- Prayers for missionaries' safe travel all over the world, especially at Christmas
- Dorm-sized refrigerator for our office

Also, a grateful *Thank you* to Dr. Robert & Tina Caskey for the donated printer that was listed on last newsletter's "needs" list!

### WE PRAISE THE LORD AND HIS PEOPLE FOR:

- Prayers for safety in travel to/from the mission field
- Our debt-free ministry
- Faithful and talented office staff and volunteers
- Health to keep doing what we do.
- Donated office space
- A very successful and joyful Mexico Medical Mission and Navajo Christmas Mission!

**FAITHWORKS 2018  
WALL CALENDARS  
ARE NOW ON  
SALE!**

These calendars will make wonderful Christmas gifts, highlighting all the 2018 mission trips for prayer and support!

\$10 each and *all* the proceeds go towards mission support.

Call 928-774-0504 to place your order *now!*



**FAITHWORKS NEWS & NEEDS**

We have begun a new communication tool, "FaithWorks News & Needs." This will be a quick email to convey news about missions, prayer requests, items needed or disaster relief info. Anything that you may want to be involved in quickly!

If you would like to receive this email, please contact Kelly at the Flagstaff office via email at [flagoffice@faithworks4us.org](mailto:flagoffice@faithworks4us.org) or by phone, 928-774-0504.



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

**Mission Trip Participants, Fall 2017**

*Navajo Construction Mission Team – Glen & Jan Allen, Michael, Sarah, Jamie & Chanell Combs, Jennifer & James Pickett, Randy & Debbie Sealover, Debbie & Sabrina Jett*

*Mexico Medical Mission Team – Glen & Jan Allen, Bill Austin, Linda VanDeren, Gigi Sorenson, Faye Willis, Camelia Gembala, Anita Oquita, Margo Braman, Rick Brothers, Amy & Emily Casali, Bud & Barbara Parenteau*

*Navajo Christmas Mission Team – Glen & Jan Allen, Tony, Amy Casali, Michael & Chanell Combs, Jeff & Juliette Farr, Shelly & Miriam, Bill & Laurie Stafford, Kelly Campbell Alyn Rumbold, Alan Purchase, Amy LaFleur, Clint Miller, Judy Kline, Mea Corum, Sandy Brown, Allie, Giana, & Sam Willis, Brian & Julie Dugan, Margo Braman, Lisa Kearsley, Alan Adams, Linda VanDeren, Deborah Perner*

**Staff:** *Jan Allen – Mission Trip Coordinator; Kelly Campbell – Office Manager; Shanna Perry – Treasurer*

**Volunteers:** *Ilene Harral-Hodgin – Prayer Coordinator; Lisa Kearsley – Editor, 'The Common Task'; George Stidham - Vehicle Maintenance Director; Office team: Pete Piper, Ilene Harral-Hodgin, Bill Wiley, Linda VanDeren, Alan Purchase, Amy Casali, Anne Benson, Bill Wiley, and Bob Robertson*

# CHRISTMAS IN NAVAJOLAND

Just north of Flagstaff is the vast and beautiful high desert mesa country where the Navajo people live. John Wayne said, "It's where God put the west!"

For 17 Christmases now, we've followed God's prompting to send mission teams there to places like Joseph City, Antelope Hills, and now for the last many years to the wonderful people of Leupp.

Each year God blessed in unique ways, confirming His promise of his "Co-Mission" with us in *Matthew 28* that if "we would go, he would be with us always..."

This year on Saturday December 2, 34 missionaries from 12 different churches divided into service teams at the Grand Falls Church of God Holiness for providing a common meal, fellowship, singing, testimonies and gift-giving. The Flagstaff Family Food Bank provided 10 turkeys for the dinner. Team members brought all the donated and pre-cooked "fixins." One returning team member donated and cooked on-site Dutch oven Cowboy Beans. Other team members wrapped, rewrapped and sorted out the 375 donated Christmas presents.

One of our Verde Valley churches donated over 117 gifts! Another 37 came from yet another church, and yet another church gave an outright gift of \$300 to buy any gifts needed for the children.

One Flagstaff church gave FaithWorks 87 Bibles to give one to each Navajo family that came. FaithWorks also purchased and donated four brand new dining tables for their fellowship hall.

One family donated a Christmas tree which the team put up, decorated and lighted for their Worship Center.

I wish you could have seen our team Santa at work (or was it work?) In his day-job he's a heavy equipment owner/operator/excavator, but he comes to life when it's Christmas with the Navajo kids. Blessing and praying over each one. He was well received with smiles, giggles and just a couple of tears.

There was plenty of food, carol singing in Navajo and English, Scriptures read and sharing of the Good News. When we left at the end of the celebration it really did seem like we all experienced anew where "God put the West!" Especially at Christmas Time!





To see these and more pictures in **COLOR**, visit our website **[www.faithworks4us.org](http://www.faithworks4us.org)** and click on the "PICTURES" tab.



**VITAL STATISTICS  
(SINCE FOUNDING JUNE 2000)**

Missionaries sent out	3385
Number of Mission Trips	195
Value of donated labor, medicines, and materials	\$1,827,811



**YEAR-END TAX DEDUCTIBLE GIFTS:**

FaithWorks is a long-term 501 C(3) nonprofit. Your financial giving goes a long way to relieving the needs of the poor and elderly.

**Donate now with PayPal**

If you would like to donate to FaithWorks through your media device, please go to our website [www.faithworks4us.org](http://www.faithworks4us.org) Click on the link DONATE, and follow the prompts. It's all self-explanatory. *Yes, it's that easy!*

**ENDOWMENT FUND:**

If you would like information on our Endowment Fund, please contact us at 928-821-1073. FaithWorks is looking toward long term sustainability for our short-term missions.

**YOU REALLY MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

Your support helps us to pay for things such as trip brochure printing, newsletter printing and mailing expense, telephone and internet, website hosting, and transportation of donations to our mission sites, etc. Without you, this can't happen. Thank you for your steady assistance.

Since September, we've been making up the \$20,000 deficit. The improvement has been dramatic but we're still at a shortfall. We need your help to help others in need, especially at this Blessed Christmas season!

We've found that even small \$10 - \$20 monthly gifts are making a notable difference.

Thank you and know how very much we appreciate all of you who pray and give!

Glen

**Mission Trips for 2018**

- January 20 - El Nathan Ministries, Flagstaff
- Feb. 15-18 - Medical Clinic, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- March 17 - The Abide House, Verde Valley, AZ
- April 7 - Flagstaff Family Food Bank
- May 17-20 - Medical Clinic, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- June 16 - Sunshine Rescue Mission, Flagstaff
- Aug. 18-26 - Birchwood Camp, Anchorage Alaska
- Sept. 6-8 - Mexico Supply Mission, Agua Prieta
- Oct. 13 - Navajo Construction/Fix-up, Leupp, AZ
- Nov. 8-11 - Medical Clinic, Agua Prieta, Mexico
- Dec. 1 - Navajo Children's Christmas Mission

If you are interested in any of these missions, please contact Jan Allen, Trip Coordinator 928-567- 0092 and get a registration form EARLY!



**NEWEST BOARD MEMBER:  
DAVE HOFFMAN**

Dave Hoffman has been elected to serve on our Board of Directors representing the Church of the Resurrection in Flagstaff.

Dave is a long-time supporter and missionary with FaithWorks having been to Honduras, Russia, Mexico, the Philippines, Africa and the Navajo Reservation. He is a microbiologist with W.L.Gore in Flagstaff. Welcome Dave!



# 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.

#### Board of Directors, Officers

President	Michael Combs
Vice President	Linda VanDeren
Secretary	Karen Bradford
Treasurer	Shanna Perry
Executive Director	Glen Allen

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Website [www.faithworks4us.org](http://www.faithworks4us.org)

#### OFFICE MAILING ADDRESS ONLY

FaithWorks  
P.O. Box 2757  
Flagstaff, AZ 86003

#### PHYSICAL LOCATION

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

#### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday 9 am - 3 pm

The setting at the Grand Falls Church of God Holiness on the Navajo Reservation.



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