

Paul and Pat Sham
P.O. Box 702190
St. Cloud, FL 34770-2190
www.cordministries.com



December, 2011

Reaching Mexico, one child at a time.

THOUGHTS FROM PAT



We apologize for not sending out a newsletter sooner than this...however it's been an interesting several months. Back in March, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I immediately underwent surgery and as each report came back, we felt confident that there would be no further treatment after the surgery. The oncologist asked me to have one more test and unfortunately that was the one I needed a low score on. Having always been a high achiever, this was not the time for a high score. Unfortunately, I received a high score and the bottom line with the results meant I needed chemotherapy. Sadly, 2 more trips to Mexico had to be postponed. But thankfully, the chemotherapy went well and I am now cancer-free. Going through this experience showed me what a fantastic family and great group of friends I have. God's Word says in James 4:8, "Draw close to God and He will draw close to you." As I travelled through this journey called cancer, I wondered how people can survive it without God. His presence and comfort were a vital part of my healing.

I learned from Charles Stanley's teachings that when you are in a "storm", look for what God is trying to teach you. As the experience continued, I learned that God is in control and He doesn't need my help. Each time I would think "But how can I...." God would show me He had everything taken care of. I was blessed as I watched God at work.

Initially, we were unable to go to Acuna to finish the Tierra Esperanza construction project. The night after I found out I had to have chemo and we would not be able to go to Acuna to finish the project, we received a phone call from Jimmy in Austin. He asked if we had any projects that needed to be done in Acuna. What an answer to prayer! He took a team and put the roof on the new building.

Then, as summer progressed, I thought, "But how are we going to get school supplies to Mexico?" God already had it worked out....Delta Kappa Gamma, a professional teachers' organization that I belong to donated money for school supplies. Not only did they help, but our wonderful chiropractor collected Wal-Mart gift cards for school supplies. We were able to send \$\$ to Del Rio and Juarez. In Del Rio, our wonderful friends shopped for school supplies and took them to Acuna. In Juarez, we were able to send money to our workers who shopped for

school supplies. Overall, hundreds of children were able to attend school this fall because of God's provision.

Another day, when I was feeling a little sad that we were unable to go to Mexico, I was watching Charles Stanley on tv. I saw a brief message about "Messengers" that they use in mission work. Seemed like something we could use in Mexico....so I wrote and asked about them and got word that we could order them! Free!! Another wonderful blessing!

God's Word tells us "In all things give thanks!" Sometimes that is easier said than done...but when you give it all to God, you find blessings beyond measure. Through all of these months, I can only say, God is AWESOME!

MUY IMPORTANTE!

Over the past several months, with extra time on our hands, we completed the mountain of paperwork to send to the IRS for tax-exempt status for Cord Ministries. Initially, we were told it would take up to 9 months for the application process. PRAISE God, we received word that Cord Ministries has been approved for tax-exempt status and it only took 3 months!! We can now accept donations directly to Cord Ministries, Inc. If you make a donation to Cord Ministries, you will receive a letter showing your donation. We appreciate all the help from 4 Corners Baptist Church and New Beginnings Baptist Church as we walked through the process. When you donate to Cord Ministries, your money goes directly to the work in Mexico. Our workers use the money to buy food to feed the children as well as prepare materials for Bible study. Donations may be sent to:

Cord Ministries
P.O. Box 702190
St. Cloud, FL 34770-2190.
Your donation helps reach
the lost in Mexico.

IN TOUCH MESSENGERS

The "Messengers" we received from In Touch Ministries are little electronic gizmos that have 35 pre-recorded messages in Spanish and the New Testament. Each "Messenger" came with earphones and a charger, although they can also be charged by the sun. Here are just a few pictures of people who received the Messengers.



A bus driver in Acuna listens to God's Word.

This woman's children come to one of the day centers where Hortencia teaches the children about Jesus. Hortencia also helped her get a new house through a group of Christian volunteers. However, this woman does not know Jesus as her Savior. Hortencia gave her a Messenger to listen to and learn more about Jesus.



This is the front of a house made with pallets and cardboard. It is one of the poorest areas where

Hortencia teaches the children every Sunday afternoon.



This lady lives in the house pictured above and attends every Sunday when Hortencia teaches the children about Jesus.

Hortencia is giving her a "Messenger" so she can learn about God everyday.

"Always be joyful. Pray continually, and give thanks whatever happens. That is what God wants for you in

Christ Jesus. "

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18



This was so cool!

We had just given this woman a "Messenger". After listening for a few minutes, she went outside and passed the ear-phones around to the children so they could listen to the messages. She was so excited to have a way to share God's Word.

The stories and pictures continued throughout the week as we passed out the Messengers. We look forward to getting more and giving them out on future trips. Many thanks to First Baptist Church, Atlanta, for letting us be a part of this awesome ministry.



This is Margarita's home (Margarita is the woman standing to the right of Hortencia). She opens her home for the children to come everyday and learn about Jesus. Margarita feeds the children everyday and then Hortencia teaches them about Jesus. There is no age limit on who can come and at this location there are always several women who come to

learn about Jesus....they participate in the songs and love to complete the coloring pages as well.

For many of the children and women who come, the food they get at Margarita's house, is the only warm meal they have that day. On this particular day, the children came back for seconds, thirds, fourths and fifths!



The picture on the left shows the salad we were making...we chopped a lot of apples, cucumbers and bananas. The scraps are in the bowl on the left and that's dog food! In the pan above, is one of Hortencia's rice dishes...it includes corn, green beans, onions and chorizo. Hortencia tries her best to make sure there are fruits and vegetables served everyday. The fruit salad seemed weird to me, but everyone ate and ate until the bowls and pans were empty.



They came, they learned about Jesus and they ate! Praise God!



The Giving Tree

Throughout the month of July, our Chiropractor, Dr. Travis Wells, accepted donations of Wal-Mart gift cards for Cord Ministries. Through the generous donations, we were given more than \$275 worth of gift cards which we sent to Del Rio and Juarez for our workers to purchase school supplies. Thank You, Dr. Travis and Wells Clinic!!

TIERRA ESPERANZA —It's almost done!



The new building looks great. The old building was made of wood and had become unsafe...the wooden floor was caving in and termites had destroyed much of the building. The new building is "mas fuerte". Jose made all of the cement blocks by hand and then built the walls. Jimmy and his team from Austin built the roof. The building looks beautiful. There is still some work to do to finish it. There are bars on the windows, and we need to put wooden shutters inside. Jose and Modesta's son wired the building for electricidad. And hopefully, we will get the cement floor poured before the Christmas festivities begin. We are so thankful for each and every person who has helped complete this building.

As we looked at the building when we visited in October, the kids in the neighborhood saw Hortencia and began coming to see her. They were disappointed that we were not staying for a Bible lesson. It didn't matter that it wasn't the scheduled day and time for the Bible lesson, they were eager to learn and happy to see Hortencia.

The building has 2 sections...the half wall will eventually have a counter and serve as a kitchen. Overall, the area will accommodate more children. Even with the dirt floors, Hortencia meets with the kids in the evenings. One recent evening it was very cold, but everyone came, bundled up in coats and learned about God and Jesus.



**O Come Let Us Adore Him!
Merry Christmas from the entire Cord Ministry Team**

Paul, Pat, Jenni, Mandy, Richard (Cord Board)
Hortencia, Jose, Modesta, Margarita, Cecy, Concepcion, and Aldofo
(our workers throughout Mexico)