



Partners in Ministry News

Winter 2009

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18 & 20 NIV

Remembering Pastor Alex

Pastor Alex Gerado went home to be with the Lord in July 2008. He and his wife, Maria Elena served God in so many ways as our hands, feet, and voice in Tijuana and especially in the New Millennium area where Compañeros en Ministerio (CeM) is involved. They were, and Maria Elena still is, involved with the weekly

Thursday evening services for the sponsored children for CeM in the New Millennium and as interpreters when our mission encounter teams go to Tijuana. Pastor Alex served tirelessly for the Lord through his church (La Gloria), Compañeros en Ministerio,

CREER and other areas.

Please continue to pray for Maria Elena and her two children as she continues the ministry she and Pastor Alex did together. Pastor Alex will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Compañeros en Ministerio Board Report

Another exciting year in the Lord with Compañeros is starting! We praise God for His faithfulness, love, and mercy that He has shown us this past year. We humbly ask His blessing on Compañeros and that we will discern His will and direction for CeM and then follow it!

We've had great encounters take place in Navajoland and in Tijuana in 2008 and you will read about some of them in this newsletter.

Compañeros had a sad experience this summer in losing our brother, friend, and pastor in Tijuana, Pastor Alex. We greatly miss him, but we are grateful that his wife, Maria Elena, carries on his vision in the church.

We were privileged to experience an encounter with him just a couple of weeks before he passed away. Pastor Alex and Maria Elena had the vision to empower leaders from their church and ladies in the New Millennium area to lead and plan the Thursday evening services and other ministry events. It is a real blessing to see the local people growing in the Lord and ministering to each other!

We continue to support CREER through ministry and food distribution. A projector and laptop computer, purchased through John Dentler's fund, have been a real blessing and greatly used by Pastor Maria Elena at CREER, La Gloria church, and the New Millennium area.

At our December board meeting, we were blessed to have a video link via a web cam to Tijuana. We were able to see and talk with Maria Elena and her brother, Armando. We hope to utilize the video link again in CeM's ministry in the future. Thanks to Pastor Brian Delk for his assistance in setting this up and the use of the equipment.

The CeM board allocated \$500 for blessing the New Millennium and La Gloria church with a Christmas celebration. All the families were able to receive food, chicken, and blankets. The children received a toy and candy. They had a

wonderful time celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We want to give huge thank you to the Coordinators in Mexico, Navajoland, and the Educational Scholarship for all their hard work. Also to Carol Long for overseeing the “Stamp Out Hunger” project.

We send a big thank you to Ken and Mary Aeschbacher who pick us up at the San Diego airport and take good care of CeM’s vans. We
(Continued on page 2)

Compañeros en Ministerio Board Report

(Continued from page 1)

couldn’t have an encounter without them!

Thank you to Octavio and Enrique Echanove, our Tijuana attorneys, who have been a tremendous help with the Educational Scholarship program and other legal matters.

Continue to lift up in prayer Maria Elena and her team who teach, minister and empower believers so effectively in the New Millenium and La Gloria areas.

Compañeros asks for your prayers for Maria Ellis, a fellow CeM board member, who is undergoing treatment for bone cancer. Please send your greetings, best wishes, and cards to her at: Maria Ellis, 324 Pine St., Covington, VA 24426.

Lastly we thank all of you reading this newsletter for your prayers and support of Compañeros and ask for your continued support by prayers, time and energy, going on encounters, sponsoring a child, and financially. Our goal is to lift up Christ and to honor Him in all that we do.

A fellow servant in Christ,
Keith Jamison, CeM President

Stamp Out Hunger

Several years ago, my husband and I went on a mission trip to Tijuana, Mexico; this is when I was first made aware of the “Stamp Out Hunger” project. I came home from that trip with a goal of collecting 5,000 stamps in a three month period of time. At the time that seemed to be a lot of stamps. So I told family and



friends that worked in offices, so they would cut the cancelled stamps off their daily mail for me. Then I put an article in our local newspaper telling people I was collecting stamps and what the money was being used for. It was exciting seeing the stamps show up, The Lord blessed the collection as the 5,000 mark was quickly passed. At one point I had over 100,000 stamps.

So that small goal has brought me here. I was asked about a year ago if I would be willing to be the collection person for the cancelled stamps. It is wonderful seeing the stamps come through the mail in manila envelopes that are stuffed full. I have received stamps from Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania to name a few states.

I just want to encourage each of you to make a personal goal to see how many cancelled stamps you can collect in a 3 month period of time. I would be interested in hearing from you and the goals you set and the goals that are met.

Your help is greatly appreciated, and is appreciated even more when you properly submit the stamps. So just as a reminder: only first class cancelled stamps can be accepted. Just simply cut them off your envelope, leaving a half-inch border all the way around the stamp. Please send them to: Carol Long, 5208 N 700 W, Wabash, IN 46992.

Call me at 765-833-9571 if you have any questions.

The funds from the collection of stamps in this program are used for supplying food to CREER (a drug rehab in Tijuana) and assisting families with basic food needs in the New Millenium area.

Thank you for stamping out hunger in Tijuana, Mexico and supporting Compañeros through your stamp collecting.

Two Navajoland Encounters held this past year

2008 marked the first year that CeM directed two mission encounters to the Navajos in New Mexico and Arizona. In May Maria Ellis and Sharon Fellers served as the team. A third member was to go but unfortunately was unable to make



the trip due to an emergency appendectomy. Pastor Bob Huber of the Gamercio Church of God graciously stepped up and filled in the empty spot and taught evening sessions on biblical financing.

In October, Director Sharon Fellers led a team of eight – seven from the Maple Grove Church of the Brethren, New Paris, Indiana, and one from the Castine Church of the

(Continued on page 3)

Two Navajoland Encounters held this past year

(Continued from page 2)

Brethren, Castine, Ohio. Evening sessions were taught at each of the three churches: Gamercio Church of God, Tsaille Community Church and Hooghan Nizhoni Church of God. The sessions were Church Leadership, Men's Issues, and Women's Issues. There were also classes for children and teens.

There were two – one hour sessions each evening starting with separating the men and women for their sessions. The second hour brought everyone together for the session on church leadership. This worked out very well at each church.

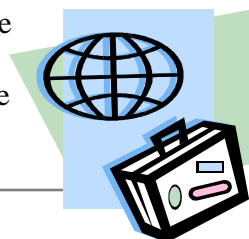
2009 Navajoland Encounters scheduled

The next two Navajoland Encounters are May 16-23 and October 17-24. If you are interested in joining one of the teams or would like more information, please contact Navajoland Director Sharon Fellers at 937-678-9125 or by email at boshky@embarqmail.com.

Schedule a Visit or an Encounter with CeM

CeM board members and coordinators are available to visit your church or group to explain all the ministry areas of Companeros en Ministerio and how you can be a part of these missions.

We can explain mission encounters and match your group's gifts to the needs in Mexico or Navajoland. We would also be



glad to share how to sponsor a child in Tijuana and the Stamp Out Hunger and Material Witness projects.

To schedule a visit or encounter with CeM, please contact: Ruth Ann Jamison at 937-456-5889 or by e-mail- kdjamison@voyager.net. We would love to hear from you!

You can find out more about Compañeros en Ministerio by going to their web site <http://www.companerospartners.org>

Sponsor a child this year

Have you ever thought about sponsoring a child and making a difference in that child's life? Maybe now is the time to actually start sponsoring a child through Companeros en Ministerio Scholarship Fund.

What is the Educational Scholarship Fund through Compañeros en Ministerio? It is when individuals (or families) give \$25/ month (\$300/year) to Compañeros to sponsor a child in Tijuana, Mexico. This money will be used to pay each sponsored student's tuition to their school and also to buy each sponsored child their school uniform, a gym outfit, and at least one pair of shoes. But most of all it is a way to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with students and make a difference in their life for eternity.

Pastor Maria Elena Gerardo and her team have a ministry opportunity every Thursday evening to share the gospel with all sponsored children and their families. Sponsored children are required to attend 75% of these meetings for us to continue sponsoring them. They have been having up to 150 people attending these programs and the enthusiasm and excitement is growing and lives are being changed. You may also correspond back & forth with your child and send gifts (birthday, Christmas, etc.) to your child several times a year.

Also, you may visit your child in Tijuana, by going on a Mission Encounter with Castine or just letting us know when you will be going to Tijuana and we will try to get you in touch with your child and set up a time to meet.

So is God calling you to sponsor a child and make a difference in one child's educational & spiritual life now? If so & you would like more

information about sponsoring a child just call us at 937-692-5871 or email us at dlhollinger@woh.rr.com and we can explain in more detail how the program works and have you pick out the student(s) God has chosen just for you. *Pray about it and let us know.*

Dave & Linda Hollinger

Material Witness Sewing Ministry

If you have been on a mission encounter to Tijuana, you know the ladies from the Ministry Mall love to sew! They make all sorts of clothing for their children and themselves. Household items such as sheets, pillows, and curtains are favorites of theirs to sew. They also like to make practical and fashionable accessories such as handbags, scarves, and jewelry.

They enjoy being creative, but more importantly; they come together for prayer, devotions, and sharing. Pastor Maria Elena is able to have sewing sessions on a regular basis as long as there is an abundance of fabric.

The Material Witness fund was established to help finance this ministry. The money is used to replace sewing machines, sewing supplies, and fabric. The fabric stores in Tijuana have a huge selection at more affordable prices.

If you like to sew and craft and would like to support this ministry by a donation, please mark for the Material witness fund and send to: Compañeros en Ministerio, PO Box 37, Rushville, IN 46173.

If you wish to donate trims, laces, and ribbon that you have on hand, please call Ruth Ann Jamison, Sewing Coordinator, at 937-456-5889 or contact by email: kjamison@voyager.net.

Thanks for you support of this ministry!

An honor to serve

June 21-28, 2008

It was an honor for me this past summer to be a part of a mission team from our church that was called to Tijuana. We totally anticipated making a difference in the lives of the people of Tijuana; however, God had other things in

mind. He took a team of 10 people who were not real comfortable speaking, praying and leading in front of others and then asked us to do just that. We shared our testimony and prayed with the people at CREER, a drug rehab facility; we led Bible Studies and sang at the Thursday Night Service in the Ministry Mall; we became friends with the people and children of Tijuana; and we were one of the last teams that had the privilege of working with Pastor Alex. We came back home different than we left and with a sense that maybe we were the ones that had been changed because of us being there instead of us changing them. It was truly an amazing experience and a time of unbelievable spiritual growth for our whole team and something that I will never forget.

Pam Kirkdorfer
Maple Grove Church of the Brethren
New Paris, IN

An awesome experience

June 28-July 4, 2008

On Friday evening, July 4, the nine Tijuana Mission Encounter team members returned to Ohio, exhausted, but spiritually filled. While in Tijuana the team ministered to many people. On Sunday we worshiped at two different churches, one at 9:30 A.M. and within walking distance of the motel and the other, La Gloria, at 1:30 P.M. and about a half hour drive away. La Gloria is where Maria Elena Gerardo is pastor. (Her husband, the late Alex Gerado, was also pastor there. He passed away in July.) She is an integral part of Compañeros en Ministerio and is the onsite person in Tijuana.

Dean Rohrer, a retired Church of the Brethren pastor and member of Greenville Church of the Brethren, graciously agreed to preach at La Gloria. This was a spur of the moment decision, but was an excellent way for Dean to practice his Spanish and share Christ at the same time. Prior to Dean's preaching there was time spent in worship and singing -- in Spanish and English. It was an inspiring and uplifting experience!

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday were spent at the area of Tijuana called New Millennium.

There we worked on the Educational Sponsorship Ministry that Compañeros has in place. Sponsored



children were re-registered with updated home and school information and then Dave Hollinger and Keith Jamison drove the two vans to take them shoe and uniform shopping. You will have to ask them what that experience was like, driving a van full of

(Continued on page 5)

An awesome experience

June 28-July 4, 2008

(Continued from page 4)

children and their mothers! Linda Hollinger, Ruth Ann Jamison, Dean Rohrer, Bob & Sharon Fellers stayed back at the Ministry Mall and re-registered those children who are on the waiting list. Also staying back at the Ministry Mall were Anne Erwin and Rachel Jamison who did a wonderful job of keeping the children occupied by doing crafts while their mothers waited in line. Anne also went shoe shopping with the group on Tuesday.

We went to CREER (a drug rehabilitation center in Tijuana.) on Wednesday evening and showed a movie relating to the difficulties of living. We then returned on Thursday morning for a time of sharing and teaching on how to live a life in Christ and the struggles we all go through. All of us (CREER individuals and our team) recognize that we have all sinned and only through a life with Jesus will we be delivered. Mostly everyone was aware of their life situation and wanted Christ to be a part of their life. There were several men and women who accepted Christ for the first time. Please keep the men and women of CREER in your prayers. Pray for their strength in Christ to release them from the drugs and alcohol addictions and that they will develop a close walk with Him. This is an awesome experience and time of sharing Jesus Christ. CREER wants more teaching about the Bible and Christian living.

Thursday evening the families of New Millennium treated us to a "Thank you" dinner.



They brought in food to the Ministry Mall and we had a wonderful time of fellowship prior to worship time. There were approximately 150 people in 12 ft. x 54 ft. room! We showed a couple of movies for the children. Sharon and MariaElena taught the women

and Dave taught the teenagers. It was a very good evening and it was hard to say goodbye.

Upon arrival in Indianapolis on Friday, July 4, we were treated to a very spectacular fireworks display. From the air you could see a large part of the city and there were fireworks going up everywhere! It was so awesome and a wonderful treat! Our God is an awesome God as we were blessed from the beginning to the end of this mission encounter!

Castine Church of the Brethren Team
Castine, Ohio

Surely the Presence of the Lord...

August 9-15, 2008

Fourteen members of Forest Park UMC in Lima, OH were in Mexico August 9-15, 2008 experiencing the presence of God. We saw God at work everyday. Our devotions every morning concluded with us singing, "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place"

We completed two minor and one major construction projects. The major project was the construction of a 6' by 8' bathroom addition for Marta, her two boys, and her husband. The project was complicated due to limited building space, the convergence of three different roof lines and that the owner expanded the size of the project after materials were purchased. We



witnessed God's presence through the kindness of Marta, who brought us cold drinks, snacks and sandwiches, and that the partial roll of roofing purchased was just enough (not an inch to spare) for the enlarged project. Marta was very grateful for the gift of her new bathroom. When we gave her a copy of the photo of our construction team with her and the boys, she asked us to write our names on the back of the picture.

The Team participated in the leading of worship on three occasions. On Sunday afternoon we were at La Gloria Four Square Gospel Church, the home church of Pastor Alex (recently deceased) and his wife, Maria. Since the sudden death of Pastor Alex, worship has been led by guest pastors. But on this Sunday Pastor Maria

translated for Ted Bible and she provided a passionate closing to the service. Our team sang two songs in English and two songs in our “best” Spanish! Their Praise Band also sang their songs. A highlight of the service was the interpretive dance performed by Britny Tuttle
(Continued on page 6)

Surely the Presence of the Lord...

August 9-15, 2008

(Continued from page 5)

and Karin and Kristin Mowery. Pastor Maria was so moved by the dance that she asked the girls to repeat it at the closing of the service. She translated the song as they danced. Looking around, we could see the presence of God on each face in the room. We are pleased to know that the Four Square Denomination recognizes women as pastors and that Maria will continue to pastor this church.

On Thursday we led worship at CREER Rehabilitation Center, which included our English and Spanish songs, one of Tryna Brown’s puppet shows, a message by Ted Bible and a testimony by Tanya Snider. At the close of the service twenty-one men came forward and began a new life through their acceptance of Jesus as their personal Savior. That evening, we also assisted in the worship and teaching to children, teens and women at the Ministry Mall. As we sang the same songs in different languages we all felt the same love from God. His love is the same in any language.

Also, on Thursday, God provided an extraordinary experience for us. We had planned all week to go to the landfill, the “dump”, where many people make their living searching through the trash. We had water, clothing, and two hundred pounds of beans and rice we had bagged to pass out to these people, but the officials changed their minds and would not allow us to come. Instead, we went to the River

of Life Water Orphanage that Pastor Maria said rarely received any help. We took the beans and rice, candy, cookies, fruit, a puppet show, a craft project, and several outdoor toys for the children. We had an amazing time playing with

these precious children. They showed their appreciation to us by singing for us when it was time to leave. We surely saw the face of God as we looked at each child’s face. We were able to give the orphanage the money they needed to fill their gas tank to allow them to have hot water again.

We saw amazing things happening at the Ministry Mall where the Tijuana ladies, children, and an occasional man come to sew and share Bible puppet stories and crafts. While the sewing was taking place, two former prisoners and Pastor Maria’s brother gave witness and read the Bible in Spanish to anyone who would listen. Often, we watched them pray with individuals as they turned their lives over to Christ. These people were hungry for the Gospel and every opportunity was used to share God’s love.

Word spread fast that the big white vans had returned to the Ministry Mall. This year there were a few young girls that learned to sew, a man who wanted to make a pillowcase for his wife, a young boy who brought a dress to use as a pattern to make a new dress for his grandmother, a special pink-ruffled skirt, and



many curtains, pillows, blankets, pillowcases, and other articles of clothing made from fabrics that had been donated.

The sewing machines were obstacles every day. Ruth, Tanya, Rita, and Julie regularly removed tangled masses of thread from bobbin cases, replaced broken needles, adjusted zigzag stitches, etc, etc, etc. In our culture we might have just given up and bought a new machine. Here, God provided the patience, time, and effort to make these machines work right. The look of pride in everyone’s eyes as they showed off each finished product was priceless. Again, we all felt the presence of God working.

The Bible stories we shared through puppets were Jonah and the Whale, Daniel and the Lions’ Den, and David and Goliath. Crafts included sun visors, a Jonah and Whale Catch Game, and picture frames for each child’s photo. Photos were a HUGE success so we decided to take family photos also to give to each mother. Tryna’s digital photo printer got quite a workout! Our children’s group grew from about



ten to more than forty over the three days we worked with them.

Each day in Tijuana we felt the strength of prayers coming from home. It was prayers and God's strength and love guiding us and holding us up some days. God's mission field is the

(Continued on page 7)

Surely the Presence of the Lord...

August 9-15, 2008

(Continued from page 6)

world He created! He created us all and, as His disciples, we are to serve everyone we can reach with His guidance and direction. Yes, the presence of the Lord was at work with our Team everywhere we went.

Forest Park United Methodist Church
Lima, Ohio

Important travel information

Traveling to and from Mexico now requires:

- A Passport, which can be obtained through US Post office. Allow 3 to 4 weeks for processing after it is applied for, to receive Passport.

www.usps.com/passport.com

Sign up for Quick Call to Prayer

CeM offers a *Quick Call to Prayer Ministry* that anyone who so desires can join. Simply contact Prayer Coordinator, Dave Hollinger, at dlhollinger@woh.rr.com and ask to be added to the email list.



You can also email Dave with prayer requests that you would like to have sent out.

Prayer is a very essential part of CeM's ministry. Please feel free to join us!

Join a Medical Team

As an extension of the ministry of *Compañeros en Misión* in Tijuana, Mexico, medical teams have begun administering much needed health care to those living in Tijuana neighborhoods. We are working with physicians who have already donated many medical supplies as well as equipment. We have felt God's affirmation of

this ministry. We were provided with a location to base our health care outreach and to store supplies. Again, this is about building relationships, and our intent is to connect with the people of Tijuana, helping to facilitate their own health care, and to build relationships with the medical community as well.

If you are interested in participating in this ministry, or would like to take a medical team, or know of others who would be interested in doing so, please contact our Medical Director, Dr. Jennifer Bunch at 765-282-6151, or via e-mail at jbunch@chsmail.org. We are excited about the possibility of partnering with you in this ministry!



Ideas for Living

1. Pray
2. Go to bed on time.
3. Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed.
4. Say No to projects that won't fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health.
5. Delegate tasks to capable others.
6. Simplify and unclutter your life.
7. Less is more. (Although one is often not enough, two are often too many.)
8. Allow extra time to do things and to get to places.
9. Pace yourself. Spread out big changes and difficult projects over time; don't lump the hard things all together.
10. Take one day at a time.
11. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you to do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.
12. Live within your budget; don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases.
13. Have backups; an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc.
14. K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut). This single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble.
15. Do something for the Kid in You everyday.
16. Carry a Bible with you to read while waiting in line.
17. Get enough exercise.

18. Eat right.
19. Get organized so everything has its place.
20. Listen to a tape while driving that can help improve your quality of life.

Source Unknown



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Inside this edition:

Page 1:

Remembering Pastor Alex
Compañeros en Ministerio
Board Report

Page 2

Stamp Out Hunger
Two Navajoland Encounters
held last year

Page 3

2009 Navajoland Encounters
scheduled
Schedule an Encounter
Sponsor a Child this year

Page 4

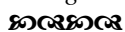
Material Witness Sewing
Ministry
An Honor to Serve
An Awesome Experience

Pages 5 & 6

Surely the Presence of the
Lord...

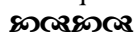
Page 7

Important Travel Information
Sign Up for Quick Call to
Prayer
Join a Medical Team
Ideas for Living



To submit articles

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