

**SUMMER 2016**

## Lifting Up Lives Grandparenting Abroad

FINDING PURPOSE AT THE CVE CAMPUS IN MAGDALENA, MX

“Being down here just gives you purpose.” The sister who spoke those words reflected upon her heart-touching experiences as a participant in the Grandparent Program at the CVE campus in Magdalena, MX. When their careers had grown more flexible, God called them to work alongside others who were serving in the mission field. While our true purpose is rooted in Christ alone, we often experience the feelings of purpose when we are serving others in His name.



### Filling the Gap by Doing What is Natural

There was a gap at CVE. The older generation was missing. Mission work had attracted many younger couples and singles, but the staff longed for the wisdom and availability of those who had gained maturity and wisdom from their years of parenting and learning the application of God’s Word through high and low times. And the children needed the special attention and gentle guidance

that only a godly “grandparent” can provide. This gap came to the attention of a few couples who had visited CVE multiple times on annual work teams. Those couples then partnered with CVE

and created an advocacy group, which launched what is now known as “The GrandParent Program.”

### Serving the Staff

It was a welcome adjustment for the staff. During the early days of the program,

a grandparent couple came for two weeks and settled into their accommodations. A broadcast message was sent out to all houseparents to see if there were ways the grandparents could be helpful. The announcement brought a variety

of requests. By the end of the day, their calendar was full. Those 2-3 hour slots offered houseparents the opportunity to rest and nurture their own relationships with God and each other.



Grandmas can make children feel so special and give parents a needed break.

### Loving the Children

Most all the children at CVE share a common experience, a traumatic family background. Their hearts have been profoundly wounded leaving them more fearful and insecure, and less able to build healthy relationships. Surrogate grandparents can further the healing process begun by houseparents as they extend Christ’s love through gentle and mature acceptance. The Grandparent Program encourages multiple week-long visits or extended time on campus – from two weeks to two months – each year. These extended visits, along with their unconditional love and care, are a valuable part of helping the children to grow and build more secure attachments.

### God Qualifies the Called

The HarvestCall name reflects, among other things, the *calling* from God to serve. Our living God moves in the hearts of brothers and sisters in Christ to draw their hearts



continued inside

And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him. Colossians 3:17

# Loving God... One Neighbor at a Time

A young lawyer asked Jesus which of the commandments was the greatest. His response began initially as would have been expected, that we are to love the Lord with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength.... but then he continued; "And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

As the young lawyer processed the fact that the response Jesus gave contained two laws when he specifically requested him to identify the single greatest command, Jesus continued, "On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets," a statement that underscored the importance and centrality of these two commands

All the law and all the prophets hung on this Greatest Commandment because they all pointed to the only one who was able to perfectly obey it. In so doing, Jesus fulfilled all prophecy and all requirements of the law on our behalf. It was his perfect love for the Father and his love for those the Father loved that propelled him to "become obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:8 It is Christ's perfect fulfillment of this greatest commandment from which the gospel emerges. His love for the Father and for those the Father loves becomes the ultimate example for all believers, and the basis and foundation for outreach.

## Outreach Motivated by Love, Not Merit

Believers strive to obey the Greatest Commandment because of love. This is in sharp contrast to the rich young ruler who came to Jesus desirous to know what he must

do in order to inherit eternal life. His motive for obeying the law was to obtain merit and to be accepted by God. Millions of people in our day continue being deceived by merit-based religions. Outreach

aligned with the Greatest Commandment is motivated by our love for God and those God loves; never to gain merit with God or the approval and esteem of men.

## LOVING GOD WITH HEART, MIND, SOUL AND STRENGTH

The Greatest Commandment calls us to love God with every aspect of our being:

### Heart

The metaphor of the heart is used often to describe that part of us that represents our emotions. Loving God with all of our heart means that we are daily surrendering our heart to God and allowing him to direct our emotions and mold and control our passions. Psalm 86:11

### Mind

"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Corinthians 2:14. Loving God with our mind is first believing and having faith in his divinely recorded thoughts and then in submission to him, allowing him to realign our thoughts with his thoughts. Romans 12:2

### Soul

The Bible says that mankind was uniquely created in God's image with a God breathed soul that never dies. Loving God with all our soul is to love him with an eternal perspective. This aspect of our love for God rises above our earthly misfortunes, sufferings, persecutions, fears, pain, and the tempter's taunting questions. Loving God with all of our soul is loving him as a pilgrim rather than as a citizen of this world.

### Strength

Loving God with all of our strength is a steadfast recognition that we are stewards and not owners of the gifts and resources God has placed in our hands. It is continually praising and thanking Him while recognizing that each of us will give account of our stewardship. Ultimately, it is diligently utilizing the resources we've been given (talents, gifts, material blessings, businesses, families) to love and glorify God and to love our neighbor as ourself. "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10

## Loving our Neighbor as Ourself

- Loving our neighbor as ourself is to desire for them the same things that we desire for ourselves: Matthew 7:12
- **Jesus** - "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one." John 17:21-22
- **Paul** - "I would to God, that not only thou, but also all that hear me this day, were both almost, and altogether such as I am, except these bonds." Acts 26:29
- Loving our neighbor as ourself is seeing him or her as God does. More than loving our neighbor and God, we love our neighbor in unison and oneness with God.

## The Greatest Commandment and the Great Commission

By faithfulness to Christ's Commission his Church obeys the Greatest Commandment. Jesus said in John 14, "If you love me keep my commandments." Obedience is demonstrated love and worship of God. It is impossible to love God with our whole being and willfully live a life that lacks conformity to or exhibits disobedience against his will and commands. Jesus told the disciples, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." John 15:8. To love God is to desire his praise and his glory. Obedience to Christ's commission is multiplying and bringing forth fruit...to the ever-increasing praise and glory of God

# Sponsoring Communities: Schools in Haiti Need

You are likely aware that a child's Christ-centered education can be provided through our Apostolic Christian Church's HarvestCall Child Sponsorship program. What you may not know is that an entire school can be sponsored, which benefits all of the students, their families, and the surrounding community.

Currently, 119 schools in Haiti are graciously supported by our sponsors – but there are many more schools that could use our help. In general, your

sponsorship of a school helps cover the administrative costs related to teacher salaries and operational expenses, which relieves the burden on the community so more children can afford tuition and books, and attend school.

In this article, we will highlight the school in Soulette, which is in a remote mountainous area in southwestern Haiti, north of Cayes. Bro. Mike and Sis. Susie Walder, Child Sponsorship missionaries in Haiti, filed this report.



The Soulette school is located on a level spot high on a mountaintop.



A fairly new roof shelters the classes that are held inside the church during the week.

## A Visit to Soulette

Soulette is a primary school located on top of a mountain, next to the second highest mountain in Haiti, Pic Macaya. The road is very steep and treacherous with hairpin turns and setbacks. There are no guardrails and in some places there is no way to pass someone coming from the opposite direction.

As we near the top of the mountain, we quickly notice the school also serves as the community



The teachers are very dedicated to their school and community.



The third grade class spans several ages as kids have the opportunity to attend school.



Class photo of the large first grade class.

# Your Help



church. The children are sitting on church benches and holding their notebooks in their laps. There are only three teachers who cover five grades with 86 total students.

The school records show that only half of the students have paid some of their \$25.00 USD yearly tuition and no one has paid all of it. The Soulette school administration is praying for a sponsor so they can continue to operate their school. A school sponsor would allow the teachers to receive a salary every month and take the pressure off of the destitute families, so they could pay more tuition and send more children to school.

There are few schools in the area and the children come from many miles away to learn about God and the world around them. It is always impressive to visit a school and see teachers and pastors gladly and willingly serving in spite of the unique set of challenges they face.

## Opportunity to Help

Please prayerfully consider if you, your family, or your Sunday School are being called to sponsor the Soulette primary school. Depending on the school, monthly costs range from \$125.00 to \$150.00.

**In addition to Soulette, there are other Haitian primary schools to sponsor. Please check out some other primary school sponsorship opportunities on our website at [www.harvestcall.org/child-sponsorship](http://www.harvestcall.org/child-sponsorship)**

# Update

SUMMER 2016

Opportunities to Serve at Home & Abroad

## God is moving in Our Austin and St. Louis Churches



### BOLSTERING EFFORTS BUILD MOMENTUM

#### God's Work in Austin

The congregation in Austin, Texas is praising God. Over 400 people participated in work teams recently to rebuild homes and help heal hurting hearts from fires and floods that devastated the area over a year ago. In addition to helping disaster victims, the influx of HarvestCall work teams also helped bolster our Austin church.

HarvestCall's Church Establishment Committee (CEC) leads efforts for planting new churches and bolstering existing small churches. To help bolster a church, the CEC works with the local congregation under direction of their elder, bringing in brothers who can assist with church visioning, outreach ideas, health assessment and more. The goal is for the small church to ultimately become self-sustaining.

Prior to the rebuilding, the CEC bolstering team met with the Austin congregation. They discussed how the work teams could assist the church with outreach and integrate into the Austin church culture. This resulted in several communications being sent to participants to engage them prior to coming and to relate how they could help even after their return home.

#### Discussing Church Strengths and Opportunities

With the help of the CEC brethren, the Austin congregation has also been evaluating their Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) relative to the Apostolic Christian Church's 4-Pillar Mission. One of their strengths is "presenting the Gospel message." They have been reaching out to the Stoney Point community, which is located about 15 minutes from the church. Vacation Bible School has been held there for the past three summers, and last year, the kids were told how important it is to go

continued on back



Austin, Texas Church Congregation



## Grandparenting

### CONTINUED FROM FRONT

to a work. A common saying from the mission field is, "God does not call the qualified, but rather qualifies the called." Beyond that calling, this position requires a flexible work schedule, a heart to serve staff and to love children, and lastly some practical skills that can be used day to day on the CVE campus. Concerning language, Spanish is useful but by no

means required. Most of the children and staff speak English. The more difficult language to learn is that of a wounded child's heart; however, the staff will come alongside you with guidance and training to assist you.



Just like in the States, Grandpa helps get those neglected projects done.

## Next steps

To explore whether this is a good fit for you or not, come to CVE with one of 8-12 scheduled work teams, or on your own schedule as you are available, and interact with the staff and children. Particulars on the Grandparent Program, a job description, and answers to some frequently asked questions are available at [harvestcall.org/missionary-openings](http://harvestcall.org/missionary-openings). Lastly, you may contact CVE ([cvemexico@gmail.com](mailto:cvemexico@gmail.com)) or Bro. Jon Baner ([jon.baner@gmail.com](mailto:jon.baner@gmail.com)) for more details and contact information for other couples who have experience with this program.



Being available to help a busy houseparent with household projects is a wonderful support.

# Moving

## CONTINUED FROM INSIDE

to church. “If you don’t have anyone to take you, we’ll pick you up.” There were three siblings who wanted to come and served as “little ambassadors”, inviting their friends, who invited their friends. Today, three vans pick up approximately 15 children to attend Sunday services, and some of the children’s parents have started coming too.

Since many children do come without parents, the church has reached out to the national church body with a plea for Sunday School teachers and general help in this area. While several couples and singles have answered the call, there is still more room for willing laborers.

### Continuing the Journey Toward Church Growth

The church plans to continue conversations to lay the foundation to develop a local vision and mission and to do a spiritual gifts survey. They hope to discover more about their own talents and where God may be leading them as a church body to further His Kingdom. They also look forward to continuing the discipleship efforts started by the work teams.

### God is at Work in St. Louis, MO

For years, the Taylor, Missouri congregation has been supporting the St. Louis church in many ways including minister rotations. When Taylor takes their rotation in the coming months, however, the weekend will look a bit different due to heart-to-heart conversations that have been occurring recently due to the bolstering effort. A minister will be sent, but many other brothers

and sisters will come along. They plan to support the church by serving lunch and teaching Sunday School to give the St. Louis brethren and friends a welcome break.

Like Austin, the St. Louis congregation was chosen to be part of the CEC pilot program. They have also been evaluating their strengths and opportunities relative to the four pillars—presenting the gospel message, teaching and nurturing the believers, preserving sound doctrine and offering humble deeds of service to all mankind.

The St. Louis church body has several, young couples with small children... in fact, children under the age of ten outnumber the adults in attendance. With this demographic, teaching and nurturing their children is at the forefront. There are, however, gaps that they recognize need to be filled by middle-aged couples with teenage children, and older couples to impart wisdom.

With the day-to-day busyness of family life, this often hinders the ability for fellowship and time to reach out into the community. To assist, CEC brothers are working with the neighboring congregations of Champaign and Taylor to start a rotating potluck. A carload would come from these churches to watch children so the adults



St. Louis, Missouri Congregation

could enjoy fellowship. The church would also like to start Vacation Bible School to teach their youth and reach out into the community. They are looking into several options for assistance.

### Pray with Us

Join the congregations and the CEC in praising God for the wonderful ways he is working in these small churches. Please pray that...

- The St. Louis and Austin churches can grow in love and unity through working together.
- God would provide wisdom for the CEC brethren and the congregations to know how to continue outreach into the community
- God would move in the hearts of families, couples and singles to move.
- **In St. Louis**, a special plea goes out to middle aged couples with teenage children and older couples. A house is located adjacent to the church and is available to rent. Contact Bro. Loren Schrenk at 314.994.1944 or seeclar@swbell.net
- **In Austin**, the plea is for Sunday School teachers. Send an e-mail to Bro. Matthew Rassi at CEC@HarvestCall.org

**STAY CONNECTED** | Prayer support is needed in every part of HarvestCall work. Here are two ways to learn about projects, how to be involved and how to pray specifically.

**Stay in touch with email updates** | Go to the HarvestCall website ([www.harvestcall.org](http://www.harvestcall.org)) and select “Join our email list” on the home page. Enter your email address.

**Free newsletter** | We will mail an Update newsletter four to five times a year with recent news regarding HarvestCall ministry programs and how to be involved.

**HELP FINANCIALLY** | If you prefer your donation is used where most needed, indicate General Fund. If you feel moved to support a specific project, include the name of the project. If donations are greater than the need for any specific project, they will be used in the General Fund where most needed.

An envelope is provided with appropriate boxes to check. Checks can either be given to your local HarvestCall Representative or mailed to:

**Apostolic Christian HarvestCall**  
**PO Box 3797, West Lafayette, IN 47996**

Or if you wish to donate online, visit the HarvestCall website at:

[www.harvestcall.org/donate](http://www.harvestcall.org/donate)