

YEAR END 2017

Graduation Day at our school in Ixtlan

Excitement fills the air. It is graduation day in Ixtlan, MX. As the primary school children at Colegio de las Americas (a ministry of Apostolic Christian HarvestCall) arrive, the staff are decorating the large tents set up for the annual sixth grade graduation ceremony.

The teachers attempt to contain the excitement as the children file into the adjacent Apostolic Christian church for the graduation service. The graduates' parents sit immediately behind their children and ahead of the younger students. Enthusiastic singing launches the service as memorized lyrics are sung with volume and vigor. "Trust and obey, for there's no other way..." The children know these lyrics because they have listened to Sis. Mely leading them for years. They have participated in singing and they have listened to the heartfelt invocation of administrators and instructors who committed the day of instruction to the Lord.

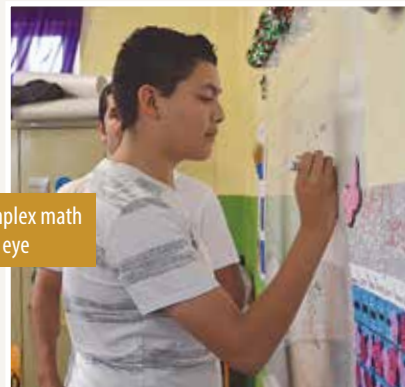
During the ceremony, the children were encouraged through Philippians 4:8 to think on and do whatsoever things are true (verdadero), honest



Parents, relatives, and students observing the graduation ceremony

(honesto), just (justo), pure (puro), lovely (amable) and of good report (buen nombre). These exhortations were not new to the students. They were familiar through their daily "values" classes. The aroma of Christ has been present throughout the classroom experience for these children.

7th grader resolving complex math problem under teacher's eye



Expansion

In recent years, the ministry at Ixtlan has

expanded their school beyond sixth grade. The need was apparent. Parents desired this Christ-centered teaching to continue into the critical secondary school years; however, space was cramped. Due to limited space, school administrators split the day into morning and afternoon sessions. Primary students attended in the morning, while secondary students came in the afternoon.

To relieve this condition, construction of a new Secondary School began this spring. Occupancy is scheduled for the Fall of 2018, Lord willing.

continued on back

4th grader feeling great about her end-of-the-year award



Six years of hard work pays off!



Plans for the new secondary school



For the financial support of HarvestCall missionaries, we utilize a special fund collected from among all of the churches. It's called the Servant Fund and it is the primary source of financial support for missionaries, providing them a consistent monthly means of support that has been predetermined to meet their basic financial needs. With this support from the brotherhood, they do not need to focus on fundraising.

The Word is filled with many teachings, exhortations, and principles for financial stewardship. We understand that the scriptures warn against the love of money, serving the Lord purely for financial gain, and the dishonest handling of money. Also, we know that the Word encourages careful stewardship, liberal giving, and honest gain.

As it specifically relates to financially supporting missionaries, there are at least four scriptural principles to consider.

The Biblical Foundation of the Servant Fund

1. Obey the ordinances of men –

Most nations, like the United States, require permission to live and work within their borders. Although it is relatively easy to obtain permission to live in most countries, it can be very difficult to obtain a work permit. (Just as it is in the U.S.) Often, the brethren sent by HarvestCall are prevented from earning their own living legally. In other cases, they are serving in functional roles in a charitable environment, much like working in a nursing home in the United States. In either event, it is necessary and biblical to provide daily bread. (1 Pet 2:13)

2. Avoiding hindrance of the eternal work of the gospel –

In 1 Corinthians 9:7-14, we see two significant truths. The first is the clarification that the work of the gospel is profoundly valuable and thus the worker of the gospel should be provided for to “live of the gospel.” The Lord has chosen the church as his method to provide for these workers, allowing us to share in the eternally valuable work of the gospel.

The second is that Paul went to great lengths to teach the Corinthian church truth without hindrance. It was a fragile business because few of them had a foundational understanding of the Bible. They had to learn it “from scratch”. He bluntly told them that he had the right to take wages of them – as Jesus taught, (Luke 10:7) but instead received his support from other churches in order to avoid hindering the gospel. We likewise want our brethren to avoid corrupting the Good News with the appearance of serving for gain.





3. Collective support of the Body –

The third concept of the body working together to support each other, while less explicit, is prevalent in scripture. The principle is exemplified in the collective support of the churches for Paul's missionary journeys.

In many scriptures, (Philippians 4:15-19, 2 Corinthians 11:8-9, 2 Corinthians 4:13, 3 John 5-8) we see the heart of the churches for the ministry of Paul. While Paul may not have always accepted the money, he again clarified that it was his right and their opportunity/blessing to support his ministry.

4. Workman is worthy –

Spiritual work is work and the workman is worthy of His hire. This principle is stated specifically (Luke 10:7, 1 Timothy 5:18, Matthew 10:7-10) in multiple scriptures.



Although providing funding is necessary, HarvestCall's primary emphasis is always on the spiritual and emotional health of our missionaries.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the local sending church to be the most present support in the life of the missionary. HarvestCall views its role as assisting the local sending church in encouraging them in their responsibilities. Similar to the mutual blessing of shared financial resources, it is also clear that there are mutual blessings in sharing spiritually together.

Spiritual and relational support is the opportunity of every church, no matter the size. However, when it comes to financial support, smaller churches may struggle to provide adequately. As a national brotherhood, in which we are members of one larger body, we can share together to ensure that all brethren whether from a large or small congregation, can respond to God's call.

So while the Bible does not prescribe a specific method for financially supporting missionaries, we believe the Servant Fund is a viable biblical model that aligns well with scriptural principles regarding our obligation to support those serving on behalf of the gospel in a collective manner, as the body of Christ.



A return to SC allows us to build on existing relationships



We will again build new homes, but also fix up many that are in disrepair



So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. 1 Corinthians 3:7

Winter Rebuilding Ministry Returning to South Carolina

The winter rebuilding ministry for 2018 will be in Chester, South Carolina. This is the same general area as last year's project. Returning here offers many benefits. We already have relationships with local long-term recovery organizations, suppliers, the camp, and most importantly, with former homeowners. This is an opportunity to continue building on last year's relationships. While many have maintained communications with last year's families, returning will afford great opportunity to reconnect personally and assure them of our ongoing commitment of love and support.

You may be wondering why we are not going to hurricane ravished areas of Texas and Florida this winter. Experience has shown that there is a huge outpouring of relief and volunteers immediately following the event. However, as the weeks and months go by, the supply of volunteers diminishes and relief organizations leave the area. There are always some people who fall between the cracks. This is the opportunity for HarvestCall to share its resources of construction skills and funding to help those who cannot recover on their own. It typically takes nine months from the date of the disaster for

local recovery organizations to process applications of impacted families and determine which are the ones truly in need of assistance.

In Chester, the disaster occurred in October of 2015 when a "500 year"

rain event left much of the state of South Carolina under water. For some, roofs damaged by this or previous storms were never properly repaired. Unable to pay the cost of a professional repair, homeowners did what



they could but it did not fix the damage. Over time, the damage became more and more severe. Our focus will be on helping the elderly, disabled, and impoverished.

HOW SITES ARE SELECTED

The process of selecting a rebuilding ministry site is one of earnestly desiring and submitting to the direction of our sovereign God. We believe He goes before to direct us to those He has selected as recipients and to bring together all of the components required for a viable ministry.

We start by reviewing locations that have experienced disasters at least nine months prior (see main article), then make connections to local long-term recovery organizations to discern their dedication and commitment to serving those truly in need and develop a mutual understanding of how HarvestCall and the local organization could work together to meet those needs.



If there is a potential fit, we next look for a facility that can accommodate hundreds of male and female volunteers as well as long-term staff. This is often the most challenging piece of the puzzle, especially finding one in close proximity to the work. In addition, many of the facilities we look at do not allow use of their commercial kitchens by outside groups. With much of our food being donated, it is our goal to be able to prepare and serve our own meals. We are also blessed with amazing cooks who offer their talents in preparing delicious "home cooked" meals for our volunteers.

Through our winter rebuilding ministry, HarvestCall is filling a niche that few other organizations can. Because of our loving and generous brotherhood, hundreds of talented, hard working volunteers can be mobilized to come into an area and quickly make a big difference for those most in need.

HarvestCall is committed to more than merely building a physical house that will provide shelter for a few fleeting years here on earth. Our primary goal is to share the GOSPEL – to point men and women to Christ and an eternal home in heaven. Our rebuilding ministry is simply the vehicle by which relationships can be built. As our relationships grow, opportunities to share the love of Jesus and point people to the truth of the WORD are opened. May we prayerfully seek these opportunities as we employ our hands and minds in the physical building process. The physical structure is NOT the primary goal!

With our focus on sharing the gospel, we must rely on God to prepare hearts to receive the message. Again, prayer is required that the Holy Spirit will go before to prepare receptive hearts. Prayer is also required that our own hearts can be ready to share the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ!

More information regarding this winter's rebuilding ministry in Chester, South Carolina can be found at www.harvestcall.org

Ms Martha's house before and after



“Christmas was different this year--my first Christmas in a Muslim country. All the believers in our town gathered, and we sat cross-legged on floor mats around the perimeter of the sitting room in our friend’s house, stoking the woodstove and drinking hot tea. We read the Christmas story, sang Christmas carols, and ate what Christmas food we could make with the ingredients available. But the strangest thing to me was knowing that we few were the church in that place. For everyone else in our city it was just another workday. No Christmas. No Jesus.” ~a sister, name withheld for security reasons



You won't find Christmas decorations on these streets

No Christmas. No Jesus.

YET MANY MUSLIMS WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HIM

The majority of the world will not be celebrating Christmas this month. They either don't know that Jesus is the Son of God, or they've chosen to disregard that knowledge. Can you imagine if you'd never celebrated Christmas – if you didn't know what Christmas was, and you'd never heard the Biblical Christmas story?

What KAIROS does

KAIROS is a ministry of HarvestCall formed in early 2015 when a small group of Apostolic Christians in Central Illinois had a vision to see the Apostolic Christian Church mobilized to pray for Muslims and minister to them in our local communities. The name KAIROS was chosen because it is the Greek word (used 86 times in the New Testament) meaning “the opportune or decisive moment”. Now is the opportune and necessary time for us as followers of Christ to be boldly and lovingly sharing the gospel with our Muslim neighbors. KAIROS sends bi-weekly emails about different aspects of the Islamic religion and Muslim people. Some are educational, some are personal stories, and some challenge us to a deeper faith. Also, various opportunities are

offered to be equipped for ministering to Muslims by doing group book studies or taking educational trips together.

KAIROS envisions seeing many Muslims enter the Kingdom of God as a result of Apostolic Christians humbly sharing God's love with Muslim people and praying for their belief in Jesus Christ as Lord and for their transformation by the Holy Spirit.

What you can do

REJOICE. The prophecy: “I will also give Thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6). And the fulfillment: “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world’” (John 8:12). We thank Thee, Lord Jesus, for being the light to the Gentiles, of whom we and our Muslim neighbors are a part!

PRAY. Will you stop right now and spend two minutes in prayer for all those in the world who will not be celebrating Christmas this year? Pray especially that

Muslims receive the gospel in a way that they understand, that they turn to Christ, and that they celebrate Christmas the most joyfully of us all! Pray for the Spirit to fill us as Apostolic Christians and to open our eyes to the Muslims in our everyday lives.

ENGAGE. Take a look around. Has the Lord given you an opportunity to share Christmas with a Muslim? Could you take a plate of cookies to your coworker in order to share the spirit of love (and perhaps open the door for discussion about Christmas)? Could you invite a lonely student to enjoy Christmas with your family? Don't fear doing it “wrong”. A Muslim who truly feels your love is likely to overlook any misspoken comments or cultural faux pas. Love is a powerful witness to the gospel.

Want to stay updated and learn about Muslims? Send an email to kairos@harvestcall.org with the subject line ‘Email Opt-in’.

A city in west Asia



Graduation Day

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

Your participation

Two of the school buildings are nearing completion, ready for finish work.

Construction of a third building for labs has been started. We ask you to consider sponsoring the completion of these buildings and their furnishings.

Items needed	at a cost of
18 classroom windows	\$265 each
9 classroom doors	\$205 each
54 classroom lights	\$56 each
23 bathroom toilets	\$155 each
17 bathroom sinks	\$42 each
18 dry erase boards	\$182 each
120 student desks/chairs	\$47 each
9 teacher desks/chairs	\$188 each
40 lab tables/chairs	\$93 each
12 cafeteria tables/chairs	\$91 each
11 computer desks	\$142 each
20 computers	\$530 each
10 printers	\$80 each

We also ask that you please pray for:

- The safety of the workers on the project
- Open hearts for the workers as Bro. Lalo starts each day with devotions
- God's guidance on decisions that need to be made
- The children attending this school year
- For the school staff this school year
- For our church in Ixtlan and all the brothers, sisters and friends who attend.



Middle school students concentrating on physics

Bro. Lalo has been gifted with the opportunity to conduct devotions each morning with construction workers. Some are hearing the gospel for the first time in their life, and now several of them have attended church. Constructing a school brings many opportunities to keep Christ central and the gospel meaningful.



Making school fun is important too

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) 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 | Choosing "Where Needed Most" allows us flexibility to direct resources to ministries most in want. However, if you feel moved to support a specific project, just indicate that on the remittance envelope. If specified donations are greater than the need for any designated project, they will be rolled over to the General Fund.

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



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