



SEPTEMBER 2008

fbcmoesto.com

Hurricanes, Prayer and Lessons Learned

by Mike Emmert

In July I had the opportunity to take 14 college students on a mission trip to Reynosa, Mexico, working with the Alliance Church of Reynosa. Built on the foundation of prayer, this remarkable church is led by a pastoral staff who, twenty years ago, had a vision that if they prayed for their city before the sun came up, God would bless their ministry. Since that time people have been coming to pray every morning, Monday through Saturday at 5 am. This church has grown to over 3,000 people worshipping together on Sundays.

Our Modesto team participated daily in the 5 am prayer time. The impact of their example has forever changed our approach to prayer. Deanna Duncan says of this experience, "One of the things we did in Reynosa that made the most impact on me was prayer.

Every morning we got up and prayed from 5 am to 6 am at the church. We would walk in a circle praying, some prayed out loud and some quietly. The impact of prayer was impressive and I will never forget seeing the power of prayer. God answered our prayers and we saw God do great things while we

were there. Whether it was through doing park ministry or talking to someone in their homes about faith and Christ, we saw God move. This mission trip has inspired me to keep praying no matter what I feel and believe, without a doubt, that God answers prayer and hears me speaking to Him. How great is our God!"

Mission trips always bring some form of adversity. Ours came in the form of Hurricane Dolly. The overall effect of Dolly was minor, but it did force us to stay together at the hotel for one day because of the high winds and rain. This was a time of laughter and sharing, a time of freedom from fear, all bonding us into a team. This unity spilled over into a great time of

ministering to the people of Reynosa. We had the opportunity each day to work with the existing ministries of the church in



Reynosa, helping with some small construction in the renovation of their church nursery. The visitation ministry had us going into homes and interacting and praying for people of the church. One day we went to the youth jail and played volleyball and soccer, and we also shared some

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by Reeta Chand

This summer God gave me the opportunity to join with a mission organization working in Chennai, India.

Our mission was to serve 41 orphaned children at Little

Flock Children's Home located in the village of Kondamangalam in a desert area. God asked us to be His hands and feet as we hand-washed the children's laundry, taught English at the local government school, gave English lessons at the Little Flock site, planted and transplanted trees, installed door knobs, fixed window frames and constructed a prayer garden.

Our job was to love, teach and work.

Every day children made

sure we had our afternoon tea even as we worked. If the children saw us carrying supplies they ran to help us by lifting the load onto their own heads. One morning, when a five-

year-old boy named Deepak was crying, some of the older boys brought him to a team member and placed the team member's hands on Deepak's head. The team member realized he was being asked to pray for the child, and in an example of Christlikeness, he did.

In India I learned to praise God

for a slight breeze, stand in awe of cloud cover and even look for Him in extreme heat. I learned there is life in the deserts of our lives. Just like the Tamil people of

Chennai, India, I also found joy in the hard, enduring way of life.



Reeta Chand



Deepak



Prayer Garden

Hurricanes, Prayer and Lessons Learned Continued

dramas and testimonies with these teenage boys.

In the evenings we went to the three different city parks. Each night we set up games and activities for children and youth trying to connect with people. After this relational building time we shared music, testimonies and drama. The

Gospel was presented with exciting results as we saw several people come to Christ!

Deanna Duncan recalls, "Another event that made an impact on my life was seeing people give their testimonies during the park ministries. It takes a lot of courage to stand in front of people and tell them what Christ is doing in their lives. Some were

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Young Marrieds, Young Families

August was time for the fourth annual Young Married and Young Families weekend at Camp Chinquapin. As the Sunday morning gathering has grown in numbers in recent months, this year the campers grew to about 70 people including 37 children. Sharing living



space provided a great opportunity to really get to know everyone on a more personal level in a way that isn't always possible on

Sundays.

Camp Chinquapin offers a wonderful environment for kids and adults of all ages. During the day, families gathered at Pinecrest Lake for swimming, boating, hiking and fellowship. With several couples who had never attended the camping event before or were new to Young Marrieds,

the day at the beach allowed everyone to get better acquainted, deepen friendships, and figure out whose child belonged to whom! The fellowship continued at a group dinner on Saturday with all the campers.



God is clearly working in the lives of our group this year.

New couples are coming every week to check out what goes on and we hope they'll be drawn by the growth and excitement they see.



Raising kids in an environment with so many adults and children who love the Lord and who are supportive in each other's lives reflects God's love and blessings, which are available to everyone!

Hurricanes, Prayer and Lessons Learned Continued

nervous but God spoke through them and great things happened because of their faithfulness. The first night of doing park ministries 11 people accepted Christ! The power of showing up and following Christ has made a lasting effect. Remembering what my

more vocal about my faith here and not just do it on a mission trip. My



fellow college students did makes me want to be
mission field can be here as well as anywhere else. God has changed my idea of living for Him and has grown me even closer to Him than ever before. I will always remember that God answers prayer and that my mission field is right where I am living now."



Physical And Spiritual Adventure In Belize

Getting the Belize team of 23 high school students and staff from place to place was a challenge, but for all the transportation details, it was a week none of us will ever forget.

After being prayed for, we

by Jeff Harmon

school ministry for a midnight flight, only to be held up in the airport

departed from the Wednesday night high

because of Hurricane Dolly. Finally, on the plane, we flew all night until we reached Belize, a



small country along the eastern shore of the Caribbean. Enduring intense humidity, we made it through customs and took the boat ride of a lifetime! Throughout the hour-long ride the tail end of the hurricane lifted our 30-foot boat into the air. Despite bumps and bruises, we made it to the Belize Mission and Retreat, our home for the next week. Vera and Basil de Klerk, missionaries we served alongside, founded the mission eight years ago.

Each morning we were awakened to the sounds of jungle birds greeting the new day at around

5 o'clock. After breakfast and devotions, we'd travel 1 1/2 miles through the jungle, then board a boat and travel across a lagoon to the village of Gales Point, a 2 1/2 mile peninsula between two lagoons, in some places only about 30 yards across. About 400 people live there, most under 18. Many are extremely poor, living in dilapidated shacks. The unemployment rate is about 90%, but some villagers make ends meet by selling handmade crafts to visitors.

Our ministry throughout the week was largely focused on the children of Gales Point. While having babies is highly esteemed in the village culture, being an involved parent is not. Most of the kids go through every day with very little interaction with their parents. Many kids are orphans or have parents who live out of town. It was common to see a six-year-old girl taking care of a younger sibling. Desperate for any love and attention we could give, the kids were quick to warm up to us, constantly wanting to be held.



Each morning, we led a VBS in the Galilee Gospel Church for village kids. For four days, we taught 70 kids songs, did crafts and games,

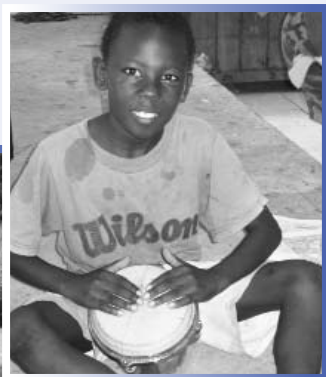
and handed out snacks, but most importantly we taught them about

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Physical And Spiritual Adventure In Belize Continued

the incredible love that God has for them. It was awesome to see the joy in their eyes as they enjoyed the activities and learning. In the afternoons we played sports with the older kids and built friendships with them as we expressed the love of God through our words and actions. We helped lead Sunday school and I delivered a message about the hope of the Gospel.

One evening, we traveled back into the village at night to show the *Passion of the Christ*, which had only been shown in the village once before. Many of the villagers watched with rapt attention as the story of Christ's death on the cross unfolded. It was a powerful event for all of us. We saw God move in the lives of the villagers and in our lives, too. None of us will ever be the same.



Turkish Expectations

With spiritual urgency and the expectation that God was at work, the outreach team departed for Turkey. Immediately after arriving in Istanbul, Leslee Adams, John and Judy Warmerdam and Tammy Scranton said goodbye to Claude and Gayleen Terry, who spent a few days in Istanbul encouraging our partners in the Istanbul Protestant Church, before



Umit and Judy

continuing on to Central Asia to visit our First B partners there serving their first year in a difficult

country.

In Bursa, the team experienced a joyful reunion with friends. John had shared extensively with Saban on previous trips, and now he made a deal with Saban: John would go to the mosque with Saban if Saban would come to church with him. Friday morning, John and Saban went to the mosque together, and on the following Sunday not only did Saban come to church, but so did his wife, Berna, and their five-year-old son. Berna even took a Bible with her from the church. What an amazing breakthrough! At dinner with friends, Semra and Umit, Judy shared her testimony and a Four Spiritual Laws booklet. She also gave a Bible to Umit.

Monday, John and Judy left for Van, a primarily Kurdish city about 20 miles from the Iranian border where they were to attend the wedding of a Kurdish



Leslee and Berivan

friend. Leslee and Tammy left Bursa with Semra and Umit for a few days on Bozcaada, an island on the Aegean. God gave them a wonderful time of discussion to follow up Judy's testimony. Returning to Semra's home in Bursa, they all watched the *Magdalena Jesus film*. Semra, Leslee and Tammy had a great time talking about the film and they all agreed to study both the Koran and the Bible before their next meeting.

In Van, John and Judy found Osman busy preparing for his wedding. Unfortunately none of their other friends were in town. They spent a couple of days allowing God to adjust their expectations and wondering what He had planned for them. Not only did they enjoy their first Turkish wedding, but God gave them opportunity to meet many new people and give them Bibles and *Jesus/God Story DVDs*. One new friend, Dilaver, even made an 18-hour bus ride to visit the team in Cappadocia the next week.



Tammy and Semra

Before going to Cappadocia, Leslee and Tammy met Claude and Gayleen in Istanbul for a few days and had a divine appointment. Again God forged a relationship, and after two evenings together over tea and dinner with Berivan, Leslee gave her a Bible. God also had some divine appointments for Claude and Gayleen who were able to minister very effectively to Middle Eastern believers.

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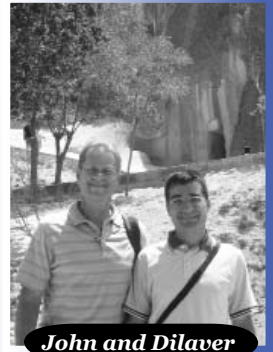
Turkish Expectations Continued

Cappadocia was like coming home. For John and Judy who have developed a ministry house there, it truly was coming home. The six of us inaugurated it with prayer and worship, dedicating it to the Lord. Suleyman asked John for a Bible to share with his friend who began reading it immediately



Gayleen making dolma

after receiving it. Leslee and Tammy made another new friend, Sait, who they prayed over and gave a Bible. These were all phenomenal opportunities, truly fruit of the last 10 years of labor and travel to Turkey. What a privilege to be part of God's plan for Turkey.



John and Dilaver

A Very Special Wedding

On the morning of August 2, our own Vikki de los Santos was enjoying a cup of coffee with her husband, whom she was to marry that afternoon. Sound strange? Evangelicals in Latin America



Phil and Vikki

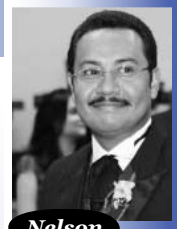
Bud and Kathy Inman enjoyed being a part of the civil ceremony held at ESEPA Seminary where Vikki taught classes. This was a small gathering attended by close

friends and family, officiated by an attorney.

The wedding reception celebration included a wonderful Peruvian meal and a concert. Rather than having the bride throw a bouquet, Vikki elected to give all single women in attendance a flower. Gayleen says, "Even on her special day, Vikki was thinking of others!"

Vikki and Nelson were radiant in both ceremonies. Nelson is a pastor; and Vikki a missionary; and together they are making exciting

plans for their future. Both have waited a long time for God's provision of a mate, and all who know them agree that God is smiling.



Nelson



Vikki's family



SEPTEMBER 2008

First B Saturday Night

Chapel @ 6:00

- Kid Country programs available birth through sixth grade

Worship Ministries

Worship Choir

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- The Point, downstairs
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship Orchestra

- Thursdays, 7 pm
- Worship Center
- High school and up welcome
- Childcare by reservation only

Worship questions?

extension 2113

Share Your Faith Class

Tuesdays

- 6:30-9 pm
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931

Share Your Faith questions?

extension 2621

Membership Class

New Five-week Class

- Begins Sunday, Sept 7, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden, rm 931
- Taught by various pastors
- A basic introduction to First B and how to get connected, no need to pre-register for this class

Membership questions?

extension 2609

fbcmodesto.com

See The Difference

The church Web site has recently been updated. Now that it's freshened up a bit, it's even easier to use your favorite features:

- listen to the weekend messages*
- find information about classes and events*
- read back issues of Around the Rock*
- connect with others in groups of all sizes*

Believer's Baptism

Sunday, October 26

- 9 & 10:45 am
- An opportunity to express your faith in Jesus Christ publicly and allow others to share in your joy

If you'd like to be baptized, please call the church office

Baptism questions?
extension 2609

Sunday Night Teaching Time

The Book of Isaiah

- Sunday, 5:30 pm
- Pavilion Garden

Sunday Night Teaching Time questions?
extension 2622

Kid Country

Opportunity Awaits

- Many opportunities for you to help children learn more about Jesus
- Help change a child's life while helping in Kid Country
- Call for details or stop by the Kid Country Visitor Center on Sundays

Totally Tweenage

Outdoor Movie Night

- Friday, Sept 12
- 6:30-8:30 pm, Pavilion Patio level
- Bring your friends

Kid Country questions?
extension 2120

Home Groups

Home Groups – a place to belong

- Connect with other adults
- Various groups and locations
- New groups forming
- Call or go to fbmodesto.com

Home Group questions?
extension 2609

Monday Night Church

MNC Service and Dinners

- Mondays, Sept 8, 15, 22, 29
- 6 pm, Pavilion Concourse

Opportunities to Serve

- Help with childcare, prayer partners, sign language or food service
- Sign up this weekend on your communication card or call the office

Monday Night Church questions?
extension 2621

Park Café

A Great Opportunity To Volunteer

- Be a part of a fast-paced hospitality ministry
- Training is provided
- Sign up in the Park Café on Sunday

Park Café questions?
extension 2618

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Fusion Junior High

Sundays

- 9 am
- Chapel

Fusion Small Groups – Wednesdays

- Small groups resume Sept 10
- 6:45-8:30 pm
- Chapel

Deeper Still – Girls Coffee Club

- Saturday, Sept 6
- 9:30-11 am, Village Baking Co.
- First Saturday of each month

Check Out Fusion Online

- fusionjrhigh.com

High School

The Deep End - Sundays

- 9 am
- Pavilion Concourse

128/Fuel Groups – Wednesdays

- 6:45 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Check Out 128 Online

- 128online.com

College Ministry

18-20 Somethings

IGNITE

- Sundays
- 7 pm
- Pavilion Concourse

Check Us Out Online

- fbcignite.com

Student Ministries questions?
extension 2506/2508

Single Adults

Single Focus Moves

To 9 am Sundays

- The Point, upstairs
- *To Live For or to Hide From, Now That's the Question!*

Fall Retreat

- Friday-Sunday, Oct 17-19
- Camp Chinquapin
- Make plans now to attend

Single Adult questions?

extension 2618

Family Dynamics

Marriage • Family • Parenting

New This Fall:

Two Classes Every Sunday

9 & 10:45 am

- The Point, downstairs
- *Living in a Changing America*
Experiencing Culture Shock in Your Own Culture
- Led by Terry Benner

Family Dynamics questions?

extension 2618

Recovery In Christ

Ministries Support Groups

Substance abuse, dysfunction and dependency

Thursdays, 7 pm

Pavilion Garden

Childcare provided, birth-sixth grade

Various groups available for men and women. Our recovery ministry is designed to help people work through difficult issues that cannot be worked through alone.

Recovery In Christ questions?

extension 2621

Young Marrieds & Young Families

We're Moving ...

- Sundays, 9 am
- Pavilion Garden
- Interactive teaching relevant for today - grow in your love for God, one another and those who don't know Him

Young Marrieds & Young Families questions?
extension 2618

Men's Ministries

Soft Top and Sports Car Run

- Saturday, Sept 20
- Stop by the Men's Ministries tent on Sundays for more information

Hot Rod and Classic Car Run

- Saturday, Oct 18
- Stop by the Men's Ministries tent on Sundays for more information

Men's Small Groups

- Monday: *Purpose Driven Life, Epistles*
- Tuesday: *12 Ordinary Men, Through the Bible, Spiritual Leadership*
- Wednesday: *Wild at Heart, Romans*
- Thursday: *Open Discussion, Be Daring, Philippians, Pilgrims Progress*
- Friday: *The Shack, Sayings of Jesus, Master Plan of Evangelism, Ephesians, 2 Timothy*
- Saturday: *Quest for Authentic Manhood, 1 John*

Men's Ministries questions?
extension 2617

Church Blood Plan Available

Information

- Call the church office or sign up at the local blood bank

Blood Plan questions?
extension 2621

Military Prayer Wall

Let Us Know

- If your loved one or friend has been discharged from the armed forces
- Write "Military Update" on your communication card, along with their name and "discharged"

Prayer Cards Available

- Remember to pray for those who are serving in the armed forces
- Pick up a prayer card in the Worship Center lobby on Sundays, next to the military prayer wall

World Outreach

Special World Outreach Weekend

- Saturday-Sunday, Sept 20-21
- **Night of Prayer for the World**
- Not meeting in Sept
- See you Oct 6 (first Monday each month)

Chinese Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, The Point, upstairs

Laotian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, 1325 11th St

Cambodian Ministry • Sunday

- 10:45 am, CE Bldg, rms 336 & 340

World Outreach questions?
extension 2622

First Impressions

An Opportunity For You To Show Hospitality

- Welcome guests and help them find their way around the church campus
- One service, one Sunday per month
- Sign up at fbcmoesto.com or call the church office during the week for more information

First Impressions questions?
extension 2806

Pacesetters

Sundays

- 10:45 am
- Pavilion Garden
- Fellowship and class

Monthly Prayer Meeting

- Monday, Sept 8
- 3:30-4:30 pm
- 818 Needham St

Sunday Lunch Bunch

- Sept 14, noon
- Pavilion Garden
- Single adult women, 60+

Modesto Rotary Senior Adult Walk

- Friday, Sept 5, 9 am
- East La Loma Park

Annual Concert & Dessert

- Friday, Sept 26
- Chapel
- Featuring: the *Herb Henry Family*,
Richland Men's Trio
- \$12 per person

Coming Up ...

- Dessert & movie, Oct 17

Pacesetters questions?
extension 2617

Women's Ministries

Small Groups

Call for times and locations

Sunday

Begin Sept 7

- Sisters – *Stepping Up*
9 am, CE Bldg, rm 315
- Sisters 2 – *Wisdom of the Word*
10:30 am, CE Bldg, rm 304

Monday – encouragement and prayer groups

- Perfect Gifts moms of children with special needs

Tuesday – childcare for morning groups

- New groups begin Sept 2
- 9:30 am, Pavilion Garden
- Groups include:

Living Beyond Yourself

The Patriarchs

Stepping Up

Experiencing God

Lord, Change My Attitude

Hebrews

Why?

Beauty by the Book

Discerning the Voice of God

(begins Sept 9, noon, 1325)

Women of the Old Testament

(begins Sept 9, 9 am, Turlock)

Precept Upon Precept: Joshua

(begins Sept 16, 10 am, Turlock)

*2 Samuel, Living Victoriously in
Difficult Times*

Wednesday

- *Precept Upon Precept, Isaiah*
6:30 pm, The Family Room

Thursday

- MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers)
Begins Sept 4
9:15 am, Pavilion Garden
Meets first and third Thursdays
Bible study on second Thursday

Encouragement & Prayer Groups

- Various groups, call for details
- *Ladies in Waiting* – deals with infertility
call 521-4143 for details

Women's Ministries questions?
extension 2623