

July 2010

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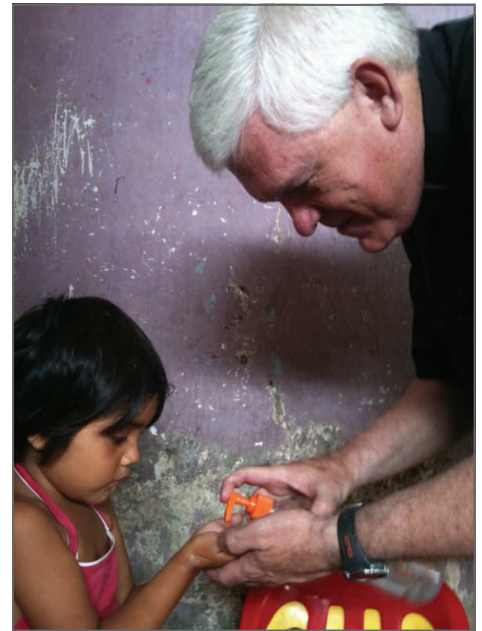
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS, WORLD MISSION

Where in the world are we going? ...thanks to YOU...

Just Getting Started by John Rayls

It began with an innocent comment about wanting to help with any ministry opportunities in Mexico. Of course with the two soft-spoken barracudas leading this ministry, there's no such thing as an innocent comment about a little interest in Mexico. I had pictured myself digging ditches, laying stone or painting buildings along the border. However, within a day I was informed that God loved me and the two of them had a wonderful plan for my life. I soon discovered the plan was for me to form a long-term relationship with Bishop Benito Juarez of the Diocese of South East Mexico and to impact and influence the priests of the area. I, frankly, couldn't imagine that happening.

Our trip down was uneventful other than the airline randomly assigning us first class seats. The Bishop's family met us and took Marthe and me to Xalapa (the capital of the state of Vera Cruz and Diocesan headquarters) about an hour and a half northwest of the city of Vera Cruz. We spent the next three days interacting with the priests in groups and one-on-one and meeting with some lay leadership teams. As always, I learned much more than I could give to them. However, I believe a strong foundation was laid for a long-term relationship through mutual sharing and learning. We then went back to Vera Cruz and spent a day in one of the *barrios bajos* of the city. This was a life-changing experience for me. There were 50 happy children of different ages crammed into a very small, dirty and non air-conditioned place trying to learn some basic skills and get their elementary school certificate. Goldie, the local priest, also had to fix their lunch in addition to trying to teach them. Sanitation was spotty at best; although she did the best she could. It broke my heart and yet she was a beautiful example of "Christ in us" caring for the poor and down-trodden. I'm hooked for life.



Summer Symposium, Save the Date: Aug. 13, 14, featuring GLENN SCHWARTZ

Upcoming Mission Trips and Prayer List:

June 26-July 12. (Kigali, Rwanda) Sandy Lamprecht. Rafiki Orphanage work in library and tutoring.

July 4-11. (Piedras Negras, Mexico) Constructores de Cristo. St. Helena's, Boerne, & Gleven Presbyterian Church, Nashville. Ed Prather & Robin Bryan, Team Leaders. Beth & Ben Adams; Skye & Chloe Baldwin; Bruce Calder; Kim, Batey, Gregory, Lacey & Anne Deegan; Yvette & Samantha Dralle; Rick Hermann; Jack Horton; Walt Klingman; and Joe Tidwell.

July 5-11. (Chiapas, Mexico) Christ Church (San Antonio) VBS at Hogar Infantil Orphanage. John Harrison, Team Leader. Carol, Rick, Emily & Stephen Archer; Robin & Asa Crow; Molly, Richard, Maddie, Tita, & Mano Ellwood; Megan Faye, David & Daniel Gensch; Cullen Guglielmo; Dick, Mary Margaret & Claire Johnson; Sallie & John Newman; Tricia, Thomas & Mary Margaret Tobin.

July 11-17. (Puerto Rico) St. Thomas Youth (San Antonio) Spencer Stocker, Team Leader. Relief and assistance to hurricane victims.

July 12-18. (Northern Mexico) VBS. Sandy Graciano.

July 18-30. (Russia) Summer Camp for Orphans. Trent Timberlake, Team Leader.

July 19-23. (Piedras Negras, Mexico) VBS. Bobby Hausser, Team Leader.

July 29-August 7. (Honduras) Honduras Water Ministry.

August TBA. (Anglican Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar) St. John's, New Braunfels & St. Mary's, Whitechapel, VA. Laura & Syd Verinder, Team Leaders.

September TBA. (Uganda) John Harrison, Team Leader.

October TBA. (Southeast Mexico) Bill Campaigne, Team Leader. Veterinary.

October 14-23. (Honduras) Honduras Water Ministry.

November 2-6. (Southeast Mexico) Clergy Retreat and Women's Bible Conference. Marthe Curry & the Rev. John Rayls, Team Leaders.

November 13-22. (Haiti) Mombin Croche School construction project. Jennifer Wickham, Team Leader (St. George School, San Antonio). 40 member team (10 adults and 30 children).

Trip with no date yet: San Miguel de Allende, MX, Orphanage (St. Barnabas, Fredericksburg).

**PRAYERS HAVE NO
EXPIRATION DATE.
B.A. Crocker**