



Mission To Mexico

P.O. Box 92351
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Matthew 25:31-46

April 9, 2013

KEEP IN TOUCH:

MISSION TO MEXICO

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President's Report

By Rachel Fannin

I am very pleased to report that the April Mission trip was very successful. We delivered more than 610 bags of groceries and were able to distribute extra groceries to the many local volunteers who worked so diligently to help their brothers and sisters during the months between December and February.

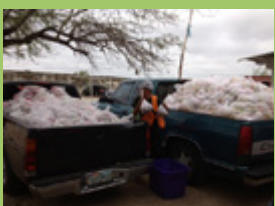
The Board is so very grateful for the Lord's guidance and protection as we worked through the challenges to develop an effective safety plan that allowed us to continue to provide services and support to our brothers and sisters in the colonia!

God is good and goes before us in all things. Thank you for your continued support.

Amor y Paz!

Rachel Fannin





Treasurer's Report

By Pat Gavia

We need donations to the general fund to support the local purchase of groceries and school supplies! Unfortunately, Mission to Mexico did not receive the annual grant from the Diocese of Austin in 2013 which will impact the school supply distribution later this year in August. Grocery donations have also dropped significantly since October. We ask that you prayerfully consider supporting the Mission to Mexico programs.

Sponsorship Report

By Melanie Fannin

I am very excited to report that we saw more than 126 children in the sponsorship program this past weekend to confirm grades and distribute refreshed school supplies and hygiene products. In June, we expect to measure children for school uniforms and take updated photos. We have received 178 sponsorship renewals for more than 200 active students in the program with more than 21 kids on the waiting list. We will not be able to add more students to the program at this time unless we receive additional sponsorship donations. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please feel free to contact me directly at melanie.fannin@mtmaustin.org.

God hears and answers our prayers...

Caryn Wontor

I approached the April Mission trip with both excitement and trepidation: Excited to see the people in the colonia and be able to deliver sorely needed groceries; but also fearful given the experience of our volunteers in October. I prayed for clear direction and protection. When I say I was fearful, I mean I was downright scared and secretly hoping for some reason that I couldn't go.

The first message was delivered via email on Monday morning the week of the Mission. A co-worker sent me scripture from Psalms (Ps 23: 3-4). *"You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name, even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side; your rod and staff give me courage."*

Now this was odd in that you don't typically share Scripture at work and it was also the answer to my prayers all week to guide me and protect me. However, **I still didn't want to go.** So God had to send me another message. During prayer group on Wednesday, the final prayer was *"We entrust to the Virgin Mary, Mother of hope, our resolution to place ourselves at the service of the Church's missionary efforts."* So, It was not until Wednesday afternoon when I felt the Lord's unmistakable message to trust in Him.

A very small group of volunteers (ten), left early Friday morning for Nuevo Laredo. We met on the US side of the border to review the safety plan and departed for the Columbia bridge armed with prayer. We crossed the border without incident and arrived at the grocery store in the colonia to collect more

than \$3,000 in groceries. We were greeted by a handful of local volunteers to help us collect, load, bag and sort our purchases.

I was so moved by the reaction of these dedicated local volunteers. They greeted us with hugs, kisses, tears of joy and great excitement. While they were able to deliver groceries in December and February to a smaller group of families, it was becoming quickly apparent that they could no longer sustain these efforts. They were becoming vulnerable themselves to the desperation of their surroundings. Our presence brought them renewed hope and strength to continue the ministry to their community.

We loaded four vehicles with groceries and headed around the corner to the church. While we met with the children in the sponsorship program, many of the local families came by to greet us and welcome us back. It was heartwarming to sense their relief, excitement and renewed hope just by our return. A small group of ladies met in the church and knelt in prayer on the cement floor in gratitude and thanksgiving as well as prayed specifically for the safety of the Mission to Mexico volunteers. What a truly humbling experience.

While we were not able to purchase as many groceries as we have in the past from the larger grocery store further away from the colonia, the Lord transformed our purchases to meet the needs. It was truly a loaves and fishes experience. We even had left over groceries to send to Father Tony's food bank.

This was my prayer while I was at the grocery store as I walked up and down the aisles to find items to supplement the bulk purchases with our remaining budget. *"Lord, please make sure the bags we prepare meet the needs of the community and that they go to the families most in need."*

The Lord truly honored that prayer as he honored my prayers from the very beginning. He called me to the mission...He called me to serve...He guided and protected me. I never once felt vulnerable or afraid. I felt humbled and grateful to be a part of the mission to feed the hungry. Feeding the hungry has always been my driving passion since my first involvement with the Mission and it is what keeps bringing me back to Nuevo Laredo in spite of all obstacles.

