



Dear COC friend and partner,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends.

Our team recently returned from Mexico where we served alongside our partners of Agape Church in Mezcales. It was a great trip! 2023 marks 25 years of going to this region of Mexico with teams. It began in 1998 when George and Betty Wakeling visited the small, quiet fishing village of Sayulita and saw great need and great opportunity. 25 years later COC continues in this area, having ministered in 18 villages, been a part of several church plants in the area and having brought over 35 teams to the region.

This trip, our team was smaller than normal, but I refer to them as “small but mighty.” On Friday we started the day in Los Arboledas, a small subdivision where the population is poor but family oriented. Pastor Carlos and Yessi are starting a church here in the local park, which was in sad shape. They asked COC if we could help beautify it with them, and so, we did! We painted and paid for repairs to be made.

As soon as the paint was dry, the kids were “on the playground!” Then we set up for our eyeglass clinic and kids activities. Terry, Brennan and Keri took photos of the kids, plus we had few other crafts, and eyeglasses for the community.

Maya shared a lesson, Keith led some songs, and Jim bought ice cream for the kids. It was a great day! And the best part, Agape’s Deb Proctor wrote the following about when they went back to Los Arboledas a week later: *“More children at Arboledas than ever since the park has been revamped and COC was here! Praise be to God.”* It’s wonderful to know our service is making a difference!

Saturday, we hosted a fiesta at Agape Church and the local orphanage kids came. We repeated all the same activities as we did on Friday. We are so thankful to all those who came, served, gave money for Bibles (we brought 140 down for Agape to give away), and those who prayed for us. We hope to be back in this area again in June 2025. Next year, our tentative plan is to be in central Mexico with a construction project for a church. More details will follow in early 2024.

“I remember the days of long ago, I meditate on all your works, and consider what your hands have done.” - Psalm 143:5

As we say goodbye to 2023, I think it’s always good to look back and reflect. There has been so much intensity in our world to cause concern, make us become fearful and anxious. And so many, including many of us have experienced financial hardship, sickness or tragedy. Looking back and reflecting can give us clarity to see where God was faithful, even amidst difficult situations.

I pray we can focus on Jesus this Christmas season, remembering His birth and life that brings us peace, love and true joy. The true meaning of Christmas and the hope of the world.

I am truly grateful for you,



Carol DeGraff





Tijuana - Day Trip to Mexico Red, Zona Norte

Space is Limited.

We will feed the community, have medical help, and do some handyman projects in the Mexico Red building.

When: Saturday, February 24, 2024
Leave in the morning, back by dinner.

\$25 suggested donation (lunch included)

Sign up at circleoc.com/tijuana



A Christmas Need for the Kamese Family, Missionaries to Mexico

Donald and Becky serve in Central Mexico, training church planters, reaching people through running schools to teach English, kid's camps, a coffee house and more. We will be with them in January to see their ministry first hand and hope to bring a COC team to them in the near future.

They need a new vehicle! Their family has grown to 5 and their current car is constantly breaking down. Can you help?

Christmas Wish Gift: \$5,000. Write "vehicle" on your check memo or give at circleoc.com/kamese-family-vehicle

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BRENDA SCHLECHTE

When my cousin Carol told me about the November Bucerias Mexico outreach, I wanted to go. It was my first mission trip ever and was an experience I will never forget.

We started our first day by cleaning up a park in Las Arboledas. There was lots of yard work and painting of the playground equipment. Later in the afternoon, the neighborhood children came to play. New swings had been hung and from the time we put them up there was always someone swinging. One vivid memory I will carry is a boy named Caimish. I had seen him earlier when we did a craft, but later saw him while he was getting checked for glasses. At the end of the eyeglass table were bibles, I saw Caimish take one and sit down to read. He had to be sitting there reading for at least 20 – 30 minutes. Pastor Keith sat and talked to him to hear his story. I pray that this is his first step of many to know God.



HELP US HELP OTHERS

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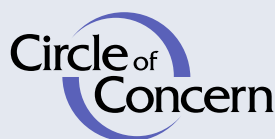
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