

Dear COC friend and partner,

2024 is now in full swing! Time marches on and stops for no one. This January has been a challenging one for me. I have attended three funerals, two of which were older saints in the Lord who had run the race well. But the third was deeply sad for me. Terry's twin brother Larry's wife, Gina went to be with Jesus on 12/31/23 after a 15 month cancer battle. Here she and Larry were with the COC team in Bucerias, Mexico 2022. Gina loved people and was one of the kindest, caring people I know. I will greatly miss her!

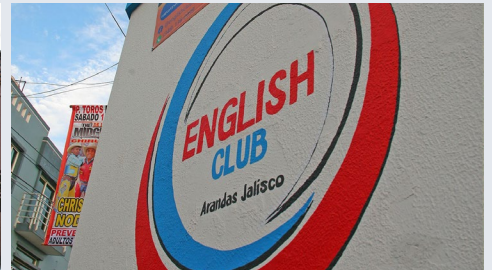


Visiting a new area for Circle of Concern Teams

Also in January, seven of us did an exploration trip to visit Donald and Becky Kamese, and Nathan and Laura Cole who are both ministering in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico – a region called the Circle of Silence.



The Kamese family



We met up with Donald at the Guadalajara airport and drove to his ministry base in Arandas, Jalisco. Here we saw the English school and Savania Coffee house which is how their ministry meets people, and builds relationships with them to share Christ.

The next day we drove to the city of Leon where Nathan and Laura celebrated their church, Gente en la Roca's 18th anniversary! The Cole's have a vision to raise up pastors to plant more churches. Leon is a city that has a beautiful replica of Notre Dame and the Arch de Triumph.

After church we drove to San Luis de La Paz with Donald and spent two nights there. Donald has been mentoring Pastors in San Luis de La Paz for the past several years, and we were blessed to meet them.



Nathan and Laura Cole

We even got to host an outreach with a new church plant where they are reaching out to the community through a weekly kid club. We saw the potential to bring teams to this area, where Christians are few and far between.



Many times when a person makes a decision for Jesus, they are ostracized from their family. We were able to pray for Pastor Chavero, whose family has rejected him. We cooked hot dogs, hosted crafts, did a Bible Story and more. Then the locals surprised us and cooked us a delicious dinner!

We also did a little sightseeing in the town San Miguel de Allende which is near San Luis de la Paz and has the historic charm of old Mexico. Then we drove through Guanajuato City, with its underground tunnels and narrow streets. Sadly, our van was too tall to find parking so we didn't get to explore it as we had hoped. **Let me know if you think you'd like to join us on a Guanajuato outreach in the future.**

Thank you so much for partnering with us in prayer and through giving, Together, we are making a difference,

Carol DeGraff, Executive Director



Our February 24 trip to Zona Norte, TJ is full!

We have 15 going, of which 4 are nurses! We will cook and feed the community, crafts with the kids and bring medical help to those in need.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: JIM ROBERTSON – HOPE FOR THE HIGH DESERT

Jim Robertson has a big heart. He sees people in need, and he acts. He lives in Apple Valley, the high desert above Los Angeles, and serves with many organizations to make a difference. His goal is always to share God's mercy with those less fortunate, to give them a better life. He does this through collecting donations from various groups and people, and then distributing them to homeless individuals in the Victor Valley. He also cooks and serves food for street people in several locations. He is grateful for any support to help buy food and supplies, transportation expense, and support what he does. Circle of Concern is blessed to have Jim serve on the Board of Directors, and a part of our missions trips. All donations are appreciated. To help Jim help others, donate at circleoc.com/jim



MEET COC'S MISSIONARY: ELI CISNEROS

Eli loves sharing the Gospel. She is pictured here with a man who received Christ in San Luis de la Paz this past January. He is showing the camera his Gospel colors bracelet that she gave him.

Eli is a Missionary with Circle of Concern as an ambassador and coordinates our partnerships and mission trips to Mexico. She brings her passion for Jesus and skills in planning and communication to the team. Eli raises her own support and trusts Jesus to provide for her daily living expenses and housing every year.

If you would like to help with her support, you can donate at circleoc.com/eli

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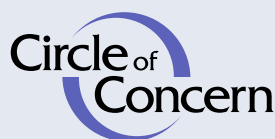
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