

Dear Friend of COC,

The COC Board and spouses just celebrated our dear friend and founder, George Wakeling's 90th Birthday! George told us we were his 4th out of five parties being given for him. His life remains a living legacy to so many of us who have been impacted. His mentorship, pastoral care and generosity is like no other. **We love you George! Cheers to the next 10!**

Bucerias, Mexico • November 9-13, 2023

Come join us for our 25th year of outreach in the Puerto Vallarta area! George and Betty took the first team in 1998 when Sayulita was a sleepy fishing village and a secret surf spot. Now it's become a tourist destination and we understand why!



This trip we will stay in Bucerias, just south of Sayulita. We have secured a beautiful property **all to ourselves**. The property has 15 bedrooms and 15 bathrooms and is walkable to the beach and town. **We have room for 5 more couples.**

We will serve our nearby partners, Agape Creek Church in Mezcales and Punta de Mita Mission in San Vicente run by Carlos and Jessi. It's in a section of San Vicente known as Carton-landia because of the type of poor homes people have built to live in. We will do construction, evangelism, eye glass clinic and kids activities.



Here is a recent update from Carlos and Jessi about their ministry in San Vicente:

"Our short-term vision is to continue to impact the lives of children and adolescents through evangelism, working together with their families. We use tools like, audiovisuals, crafts, games, oration bible and song. A child is happy when he receives some food, that's why we strive to feed the body, mind and spirit. Children understand that it is Jesus who is loving them through what we share and teach them. The goal is for children to give their lives to Christ as their Lord and Savior and receive the power of the Holy Spirit."

For registration and trip info go to circleoc.com/bucerias or email me at carol@circleoc.com

New Area of Mexico for COC??

Some of the COC Board Members will be travelling down to central Mexico this April for an exploratory trip for future teams. Over the past several years we have been partnering with two ministries, Vida Impact Missions (rural church planting training and mission) and an established church plant Gente En La Roca in Leon, Guanajuato that is growing and expanding. This special area of Mexico is known as the Circle of Silence because its population is less than 1% evangelical. We appreciate your prayers for our trip, and guidance from the Lord for COC's future for this area of Mexico.

Thank you so much for your ongoing partnership both in prayer and financial support. Together we are making a difference!

- Carol DeGraff, Executive Director

BACK TO BUCERIAS

November 9-13, 2023
Trip Cost: \$595.00 plus airfare

Sign up at:
circleoc.com/bucerias



SATURDAY, JANUARY 28 - Zona Norte, Tijuana, MX Outreach Update

by Hugh Margesson, COC Board Member

Twelve Circle of Concern volunteers knew they were entering another world, a place radically different from their homes and communities on the other side of the border. Just a one hour drive south of where many of us live.

We all were aware that we were going to minister to the Zona Norte community by feeding people, sharing the gospel, having activities for the children, washing feet, giving medical care, and most important showing the love of Christ to people who many consider to be unlovable. It enabled twelve of us for those few hours to be the Salt and Light at Mexico-Red.

Towards the end of our time, one of the final persons to sign up for medical treatment came into our work area and sat down. His body was covered with open sores. He did not speak when asked how we could help. That was ok. His needs were obvious. Almost as soon as he sat down, he nodded off (extreme fatigue or heroin addiction). He was bare footed. His shoes did not fit. Patti, our nurse lovingly attended to his wounds. God blessed me with the privilege of washing his feet. We found shoes that fit him. He thanked our team and left. Seeing his life struggle deeply saddened me. At least we were able to love him for that bit of time.

Being part of this day re-energized my desire to minister to those who are often considered to be disposable or without worth. I was reminded that God's love is without limit and we were given the privilege to watch and participate in that scenario of unfailing love.

Are you seeking to serve God and have a life changing experience? Sign up for the next day of serving at Mexico Red. I am. I can't wait for the next day at Mexico Red.

- Hugh Margesson, Director of Hope Beyond Borders

circleoc.com/hopebeyondborders



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