



MOST Ministries

Impacting the World for Jesus Christ through Short Term Missions

Journey of a Team Member

By Cindy Mejia (MOST Ministries Team Member)

MOST Ministries Team 2206 formed in January and started regular meetings in February. Several team members had been on previous mission trips. However, several of us had never been on a mission trip before and had lots of questions and even apprehensions. All of us were called in one way or another by God to “Feed my sheep”, and so we answered by coming together with a mission to serve on our hearts.

When the time to leave for El Paso and Juarez finally arrived most of us were ready to finally get started with the true purpose of serving the people God called us to help. We spent time getting to know the area and each other but always with the tug on our hearts to get started.

Monday morning finally arrived and we headed to Anapra, a sector of Juarez, where we set up in one of the LCMS Mexico mission churches for the clinic. The first day we served about 68 people, not as many as we had hoped but it gave us time to get our feet wet and get used to our roles on the team with Tuesday seeing an increase in the number of people.

The people of Anapra were patient and kind. We heard some of their stories as they moved through the clinic. Eva recently diagnosed with epilepsy worried and unsure of her future. Others with burdens on their hearts. We prayed with them, cried with them and pointed them to God.

Wednesday we moved to an area outside of Juarez on the other side of the city with no name just a location designation: Kilometer 30. KM 30 seems to sit in the most arid, desolate area imaginable. KM 30 has no running water, so people have to purchase water to fill large tanks outside their houses. The streets are just dirt lanes between rows of houses. Fencing around homes may be simple barbwire or old palettes.

At this location we served more people, lots of children and young families. Each person made sure to come to



the clinic in their best clothes, many with their children in their Sunday best. Getting their children’s sight checked whether they needed glasses or not was important to their mother’s peace of mind. For some it was to replace their glasses lost in a house fire, for others it was their first pair and a true gift being able to see better than ever before in their life. Pastor Hernandez attended both days and brought his guitar and his deep faith and love of Jesus. He sang Jesus Loves Me to the children and got the ladies waiting for the next station to sing Alabare A Mi Señor and You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore.

Thursday was another very fulfilling day at KM 30 for the team and the people we served. The stories the people shared touched our hearts. We prayed with them and continue to pray for them.

Friday found us in the heart of Juarez city itself. We set up at a senior and young adult community center. It was the first time that MOST and YLM were able to serve through an eyeglass clinic at this location and it was advertised throughout the city in the newspapers, radio and TV. At 1:00pm, the organizers had to cutoff the people allowed to wait, the number waiting was a little over 200.

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One man who was legally blind had tried to see us when we were at KM 30 but got there too late after we had already left. He walked overnight to come to the final day in Juarez and was fitted with reading glasses so he could finally read. I found on google maps that the journey between the locations is 22 km or 13.5 miles, being able to read was that important to him.

The team knew this was going to be a very big challenge to see all 200 in one day. Everyone did a great job supporting each other, giving team members a break when possible and working as long and hard as possible. We started clinic at about 9am and boarded the van at 7pm exhausted but very emotionally and spiritually fed. Closing up the final day of the week was emotional as we had to say goodbye to all the wonderful team of local people that we had worked with. We decided to say “Hasta luego” – “until we meet again” rather than good-bye. We served a total of 608 people during the 5 days of clinics and dispensed over 701 pairs of eyeglasses. Each member of Team 2206 was touched by the gift we receive in serving others. We felt the call of the Holy Spirit to go and “Feed the sheep” and returned ourselves fed by the grace of God being able to serve.



New Executive Director Hopes to Maximize the Mission

By Bethel Larsen (MOST Ministries Board Member)



Bright sunshine beamed on the MOST Ministries Mission Center. Brats sizzled on grills and a bountiful spread of side dishes awaited friends of MOST Ministries gathered at a more casual version of the annual Ask Event on August 27. Midway through the after-

noon, an energetic individual who had been circulating among the crowd was introduced: Martin Moro, new Executive Director of MOST Ministries. On Sunday, August 28, he was officially installed during morning worship at Open Arms Lutheran Church in Belleville, Michigan, where he has worshipped with family members for the past seven years. Pastor Larry Courson spoke enthusiastically about MOST Ministries in his sermon.

Marty, who resides in Flat Rock, Michigan, with his wife Audrey and youngest daughter Claire, brings a range of experience and a variety of gifts to his new position. With a degree in secondary education from Concordia Teachers' College, Seward, Nebraska, he began his career at Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne, teaching math, physics, and computers to middle school and high school students for twenty-two years. Along the way, he developed skills in development that were put to use at Detroit Urban Lutheran School before he became Director of Development at Concordia University, Ann Arbor. His tenure there from 2009-2016 spanned the years before, during, and after CUAA's merger with Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin. During that time, while MOST Ministries maintained its offices on the CUAA campus, Marty became acquainted with MOST through Carly Hatcher. After serving at CUAA, he worked in both development and administration for Lutheran

Special Education Ministries for six years.

Meanwhile, he and Audrey (now retired from her nursing career) reared four children and now have seven grandchildren. Two daughters, Martina and Katie, live in Canton. Their son Erik lives with his family in Beavercreek, Ohio, near Dayton.

Acting on behalf of the search committee formed by the MOST board when Ruth Martin announced her retirement, Ray Zavada encouraged Marty to apply for the Executive Director position and recommended him to the board, convinced that MOST's needs and Marty's background were a good match. Marty affirms that he felt led by the Holy Spirit to take the helm of MOST Ministries. Having "a heart for the underserved", he looks forward to applying his experience and skills in development and coaching to "maximize" the work of MOST through team-style leadership.

As he continues to become acquainted with the various facets of MOST Ministries and its staff, volunteers, and supporters, his immediate goal is to "put COVID-19 behind us." Meanwhile, attendees at the Best Practices in Ministry—Heartland conference in Frankenmuth (September 18-20) and the Michigan District Pastors' Conference in October will have opportunities to meet Marty in person. He also looks forward to representing MOST at Best Practices in Phoenix in February and the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee in June, 2023. Such events fit into his long-term vision of forming positive relationships and effective partnerships with other LCMS entities.

Among the many Scripture passages that have influenced Marty in life and work, he cites Ephesians 2:8-10 as one that stands out: saved by grace, not by our own works, we are "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

"We need to share God's grace," Marty says, "And He has already prepared the opportunities." Welcome to MOST Ministries, Martin Moro!



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

This is a wonderful way to remember or honor a loved one.

IN MEMORY OF

Julie Benkert by Gerald & Jean Christensen
 Sam & Dorothy Brown by Samuel Brown
 Sam & Dorothy Brown by Sharon Dovin
 Chester & Doris Burk by Sharon Dovin
 Esther Charles by Pat Kalmes
 Duane & Katie Renken by Michael & B.J. Connor
 Angela Debner by Linda Debner
 Neil Finkenstadt by Barbara O'Connor
 Jack Freeman by Kathleen Kersten
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 Norman & Virginia Kleiner by Joel & Diane Robinson
 Duane & Katie Renken by Alan & Rebecca Hoppenstaedt
 Pat Carlson's Mom by Gerald & Jean Christensen
 Karl Fuhlbrigge by Mary Fuhlbrigge
 Richard Hunkeler by Daniel & Beth Dinkel
 Rebecca Jamieson by Virginia Jamieson
 Curtis List by Janice List
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 Eleanor Mensching by Alan & Rebecca Hoppenstaedt

Jack Moeller by Kathleen Dickerson
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 Pam Schroeder by InnerSearch Counseling
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 Ruth Martin's Retirement by Les & Joyce Syring
 Heather Grichnik's Birthday by Lynne Hoyer

Roger & Terry Nash's 50th Wedding Anniversary by George & Elise Locke
 Don & Gayle Sommerfeld's 65th Wedding Anniversary by Mary Herdegen
 Don & Gayle Sommerfeld's 65th Wedding Anniversary by Ron & Kathleen Kohnke
 Dennis & Roxann Leidel by Dan & Mary Lentner

Gifts can be made online or mailed.

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