



# MOST Ministries

*Impacting the World for Jesus Christ through Short Term Missions*

## Nursing Students Visit “The Last Frontier”

By Natalie McHugh & Margaret McLaughlin (CUAA School of Nursing Professors)

The four-year partnership between MOST and Concordia University Ann Arbor (CUAA) School of Nursing flourishes as it continues to support nursing students to “Give Globally”. Through grace and grit, MOST and CUAA Nursing accomplished a journey to Alaska in July, 2021. Grace, evident in the pathways that amazingly opened before us during this tricky time of planning and scheduling; grit, apparent in the many life-changing experiences that tripgoers encountered.

Long before the trip took flight, MOST and CUAA Nursing leaders worked closely to plan each day’s schedule and coordinate with local partners in Alaska. On the part of CUAA Nursing, 27 students decided to complete their Community Health and Pediatrics Clinical hours in Alaska. Weekly pre-departure meetings covered topics ranging from safety to local customs to packing tips. Everyone arrived at the airport a bit more knowledgeable and very ready for an enriching adventure in the land of peripatetic wildlife, blue-tinted glaciers, and welcoming communities!

The group was treated to an Alaska welcome with worship at Anchorage Lutheran Church, followed by lunch in the church fellowship hall. Alaska Missions for Christ (AMC), our partner organization in Alaska, quenched our curiosity by sharing tales about what to look out for while out and about on trails and in the field. At the end of the day, the group felt much more prepared to navigate unannounced meetings with flora and fauna of all shapes and sizes.

From the outset of their clinical experiences, students hit the ground running. Daily bus trips took the team to destinations in and around Anchorage. A few of our most memorable locations were the Downtown Soup Kitchen and Hope Center, the Grow North Farm, Lutheran Social Services of Alaska (LSSA) and a local school.

The Hope Center served homeless and abused women at night, but all genders during the day. The Hope Center provided people with not only food, shelter, warm showers, and clothing, but also lessons and classes to prepare them for future employment opportunities. The students helped to wash feet and educate homeless on foot care. The future

nurses not only cared for the clients physically, but also listened and heard the stories of these men and women. It was eye opening and truly life changing for many of the students. The students collected and came with donations from friends, family and our school fundraising. They then created blessing bags full of necessities that they were able to hand out throughout our time in Alaska.

Grow North Farm serves refugees by allowing them to grow produce from their cultures and prepares them to turn their produce into a business for income. Our team helped with refurbishments and cleaned, repaired, painted and created new signage. This farm feels even closer to our hearts as they are now preparing to welcome our Afghan brothers and sisters as they seek a new and safe place to live. The students got their hands dirty and loved having the opportunity to serve this way in the hopes of providing a better life for those in need.

The nursing students were able to assess children’s health and developmental stages at a primary school. They played outdoors with students and got to participate in health promotion activities. At LSSA the students helped to prepare



*Continued on Page 2*



*Continued from Page 1*

5,000 backpacks to make sure the local girls and boys were prepared for school. A valuable and ongoing lesson was how to provide care for body and spirit in a somewhat unfamiliar cultural context. The students were challenged physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

There were nightly meetings to debrief our days. The students had so much to say, they would often go double our expected time slot! Students shared what they had encountered, and their take-aways from the day. Nightly devotions were led by team leaders and students as we related our service and time in Alaska to the Bible and Jesus' teachings. There was often joyous laughter, and heartfelt tears as the students shared the events of the day and their life changing experiences.

At the end of our journey, the team got to relax and enjoy an Alaskan boat tour of the beautiful glaciers and wildlife. They got up close to otters, whales, and sea lions which was a wonderful way to end our trip. Jesus' love showed through the students actions all the way through the trip!



## HAND IN HAND

MOST Ministries Virtual Fundraiser

November 14 | 4pm EST

*Pictures from Team 2112*



## Am I My Brother's and Sister's Keeper?

By Pastor William Sielk (MOST Ministries Team Member)

There is a movie where Marvin Lee sings "I was born under a wandering star." I have been willing to go anyplace, any time. This wanderlust kept my parents constantly praying for me. So when I found the MOST Ministries website and read about their work, I was immediately willing to go. But with all the great opportunities, where would I fit in and be able to help the most? I am not medically trained nor do I have any construction abilities, and I am not a young guy. So I called to find out about the eyeglass ministry. After talking with the very patient staff member that answered all my questions, I was ready to jump into it with both feet and also the feet of one of the other church members from my congregation.

The next step was where to go. Both my fellow church member and I are bilingual (English/Spanish) and so it seemed natural to go on a Spanish speaking mission trip. Since my traveling companion was from Central America and I had lived there, it was a natural fit. We filled out the required paperwork and waited.

We joined the greatest trip ever with others willing to travel to Gualan, Guatemala. None of us had been to Gualan, let alone heard of it, but MOST Ministries had been and were so helpful to fill us in on what it was like and what we would actually do there. After all the pre-instructions and meetings on Zoom, it seemed like the team was a family. The meetings were informative, but more importantly they allowed us to get a real feeling of who we were as a team and who would do which jobs during eyeglass clinics.

Having been to Guatemala, I was asked to be the cultural coordinator. But never having been to Gualan, I had my work cut out for me. The team was so compassionate about my lack of knowledge, but with the help of the internet and some contacts I developed we were able to have a fair idea of what lay ahead and of course the team leaders knew what we did not.

Some of the team members met in-person for a pre-trip gathering and got all the materials together. Then the full team met for a full team gathering in the Houston airport and prayed together before we flew to Guatemala.

The meeting was like a family reunion. It seemed like we had known each other for so long. The process was very well organized and the team leaders prepared us for possible customs complications in Guatemala. The prayers worked as the customs agents just waved us through. The bus and driver were our new best friends as they, with unparalleled precision, kept us safe throughout the trip. The countryside was so beautiful – mountains, rivers, large and small cities, we got it all. We were fed at Guatemala's KFC called Pollo Campero which was a treat. The first night, we were housed at the guest house of the most gracious host I've ever met, a beautiful house in the mountains. The next night after driving to Gualan, we took over a mountain top hotel with a panoramic vista of the whole area.

The site of the eyeglass clinics was the second largest school in Gualan, the Lutheran primary and secondary school. Thanks be to God! Again the organization of the clinics was first class as we took our respective tasks and went to work very efficiently. The lines went smoothly from check in, to health education, to a gospel presentation

*Continued on Page 4*



*Pictures from Team 2114*

*Continued from Page 3*

by the local vicar, to finding the prescription needs of each individual and providing the needed glasses. The people of Gualan were so accommodating to us and our lack of language skills, but with a smile and lots of gesturing we were able to make a difference in so many lives.

Every day we witnessed the miracle of good vision when people received a pair of eyeglasses from our team. Elderly individuals were excited to be able to read the Bible and see the expression on a family member's face for the first time in years, and people of all ages were amazed to see the beauty of God's creation anew. "WOW" was the word of each day, the entire trip, and the ministry in Guatemala! Even a power outage couldn't stop us from carrying out the work of our eyeglass clinic!

The people of Gualan, pastor, and church members became our brothers and sisters. They showed us their joys, their struggles, their prayers, their lives. In so many ways, the Christian charity was a two way street. We came back forever changed. We, as a team, became a family and as a service project we showed what the church is, as the body of Christ. And we were shown what the body of Christ was internationally. God was at work in so many ways. Thanks to MOST Ministries, we got the opportunity to be part of HIS love to the ends of the earth.

## MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

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

### IN MEMORY OF

Debra Agens by Gerald & Jean Christensen  
Samuel & Dorothy Brown by Sharon Dovin  
Carol Burgeson by Michael & Patricia Kalmes  
Doris Delventhal by Breck & Marilee Crandell  
Gerald Fischer by Arnetta Fischer  
Rev. Karl Fuhlbrigge by Mary Fuhlbrigge  
Raymond Garcia by Harvey & Rayelene Mieske  
Steven Godecke by Joyce Kasten  
Larry Hempel by Charles & Elizabeth Hempel  
Gerry Kirst by Arliss Stech  
Jack Moeller by Kathleen Dickerson

Donna Schiefer by Ruth Schiefer  
Patricia Ellis by Thomas & Barbara Bussell  
Patricia Ellis by Gary & Kathy Conzelmann  
Patricia Ellis by Jim Dohrmann  
Patricia Ellis by Eugene & Joan Hartwig  
Patricia Ellis by Christian & Alice Licht  
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Patricia Ellis by Victor Roekle  
John & Sue Vande Vusse by Glenn & Rosemary Vande Vusse  
Sherry Velthuis by Glenn & Rosemary Vande Vusse

Patricia Ellis by Carolyn Weiss  
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Patricia Ellis by Alexander Wood  
Patricia Ellis by Susan Zeagler  
Patricia Ellis by Kathy Zeilinger  
Patricia Ellis by Robert & Barbara Zeilinger

### IN HONOR OF

Justin Cadarette by Dennis & Beverly Neumann  
Sandy Hardies by Charlotte Campbell  
Carly Hatcher by Carole Fletcher  
Debby Suchyta by Dennis & Beverly Neumann  
Aimee Wisiniewski by Dennis & Beverly Neumann

Gifts can be made online or mailed.

For information, contact Kelly Bone at 734-994-7909 or [kbone@mostministries.org](mailto:kbone@mostministries.org)



## Mission Opportunities Short Term

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