



MOST Ministries

Impacting the World for Jesus Christ through Short Term Missions

Impact of Serving on a Mission Team Alongside Family

By Mike Schutz (MOST Ministries Team Member)

My wife (Robin), daughter (Adeline), and I recently went on a mission trip with MOST Ministries to serve on an Eyeglass Clinic in Juarez, Mexico. My daughter has always had a servant mentality and for her senior year of high school wanted to go on a mission trip. Robin has also had a calling to serve in this capacity. God put this on my heart, and we decided we would do this as a family.

Preparing for this trip brought concerns and fears of the unknown, safety, etc. We came very close to cancelling our plans due to these fears. Through a lot of prayer and talking with other team members, we committed ourselves to trust Jesus through our journey.

We traveled to El Paso, TX with 13 other team members from Shepherd of the Lakes Church in Brighton, MI and arrived to stay at Ysleta Lutheran Mission in El Paso near the Mexican border. We arrived on a Saturday evening. On Sunday we attended the Ysleta Lutheran Church service where we were commissioned to go and serve through an eyeglass ministry. We provided eye health information, examination/testing, eyeglass fitting and ministry in Anapra and KM 30 in Juarez, Mexico.

We traveled into Juarez daily from El Paso. Each day around 7:30 or 8:00 AM we crossed the border and returned to El Paso between 4:00 and 5:00 PM. Prior to leaving Ysleta, we ate breakfast with our team and packed our food and beverages for the day. The days in Juarez were very busy. We would each take time for rest and for lunch. The first day was an overwhelming experience. We were all new to the "process" of how everyone seeking eyeglasses came through the different stations. There were 6 stations; eye health/education check, ministry, eye examination, pulling of glasses, dispensing of glasses, and fitting (for the most part in that order). The first day in an area called Anapra, we saw about 150 people come through the clinic. Overall, we served roughly 600 people in the two separate locations. The first two days were spent in Anapra and the last two days were spent in an area called KM 30.



During our time in Juarez we had several interpreters who supported us most, if not all of the time we were in Mexico. These individuals lived in Juarez and were volunteers as well. We could not have done what we did without their support. They quickly became our friends. It was humbling to see how optimistic and positive they were despite the circumstances of the surroundings.

We supported multiple roles while doing the clinic. Robin helped with fitting, pulling glasses and supporting youth activities. Adeline mostly did pulling of glasses (maybe the toughest job of the week). She was exceptional at this job and offered to do other things, but usually came back to this station. She was amazing where she was. I did dispensing of glasses and did this all four days. The language barrier was a struggle at first and something which scared us all a little bit. I was amazed at how quickly we were able to overcome it with the help of our interpreters and learning a few key phrases.

At the end of each day, back in El Paso, we ate dinner and came together for a debrief with our team. What we thought was a trip to help others ended up being a tremendously moving event for Robin, Adeline, and I. We worked together, adjusted and grew.

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Serving with Hands and Hearts

By Claudia Williamson (MOST Ministries Team Member)

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Northville, MI sponsored a MOST Ministries team of fifteen people to Juarez, Mexico on a mission trip in November 2021.

The team took on the task of building a house for a family of five in Anapra, a poor suburb of Juarez. Additionally, team members were engaged in delivering water filtration buckets and offering training on their use. Many of the residents of the poor suburban sprawl around the city of Juarez do not have access to piped water or indoor plumbing. Team members also taught health and hygiene classes to adults and children. The team deployed as smaller groups each day to facilitate these three projects.

The mission group worked under the auspices of the Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care (YLM) organization in El Paso, TX, a long time host partner of MOST Ministries. YLM provides relief and human care services while planting and nurturing missions on the U.S./Mexico border. The team traveled to Juarez and Anapra daily to complete the projects. They were accompanied by interpreters who assisted in communication.

The house construction took four days to complete a 12x14 frame structure with two rooms. The house is wired for electrical service but does not include plumbing. Residents will use a neighborhood water station for water and toilet facilities.

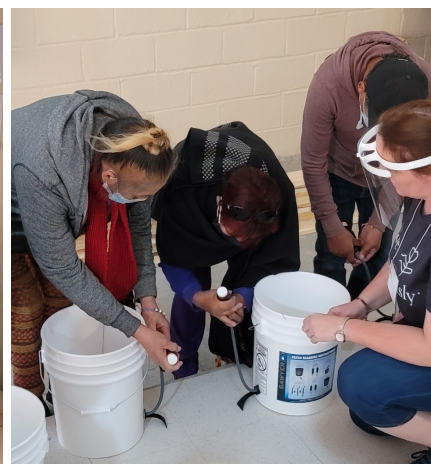
The family chosen to move into the house was a family of five. At the end of the project, the local pastor held a

“blessing” of the house to ask for God’s love and support. The family was very excited to finally have their own small space to call home. Many extended families live in more primitive circumstances in these neighborhoods.

One hundred and twenty water filtration systems were distributed to families who have no running water in their community. Families were provided instructions on how to use the system and given the reasons for its use. The families were greatly appreciative of the buckets as it allowed them to ensure clean water for cooking and washing. With proper care, the filtering system will last indefinitely.

Both adults and children were offered health and hygiene lessons, along with fun activities to engage the children. Without ample clean water at the ready and a lack of sanitation, these lessons helped guide some good common practices. Lessons about good nutrition, proper tooth care, and thorough hand washing were all part of the curriculum.

All of the members of this team of fifteen people, ages 28-82, were grateful for the opportunity to serve and share God’s word with our neighbors in Juarez and Anapra. We all feel that we made friends across cultures, and were able to leave the people we served with a positive impression of their new friends from Northville, Michigan.





MOST Ministries sent seven teams in 2021, they distributed
2,469 Eyeglasses **120 Water Filters**

We are blessed by everyone who helped our teams impact the lives of
2,524 People

Are We There Yet?

By Ruth Martin (MOST Ministries Executive Director)

Who hasn't heard a child on a longer than "normal" road trip repeatedly ask the question, "Are we there yet?" I've been asked a similar "Are we there yet?" question a number of times by individuals who are interested in knowing if and when MOST Ministries will be able to resume sending short-term mission teams into the foreign mission field at pre-pandemic levels. Dozens of former MOST mission team members have also asked me the "Are we there yet?" question because they're eager to experience the joy of serving people in great physical and spiritual need, after having been "side-lined" by the pandemic since March 2020.

The good news is that the total number of short-term mission teams MOST Ministries is planning to send **this year** to underserved areas of the world is 20 -- a significant increase over the number of teams that we were able to send in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. And we're optimistic that we can reach our 2022 goal, simply because the COVID-19 virus and its variants are becoming more "manageable" as the virus is transitioning from the "pandemic" phase to an "endemic" phase, according to medical experts. Practically speaking, we see evidence of this as restrictions on international travel are lifting in more countries every month, and mask and social distancing mandates are ending in the U.S. and in many of the developing and under-developed areas of the world where we plan to send mission teams this year. Since we are beginning "to see the end in sight" we are also looking forward to sending 25-30 short-term mission teams abroad in 2023 and beyond.

Please join us on MOST Ministries' mission to impact the world for Jesus Christ! For questions about our 2022 mission trip schedule, how to register for a mission trip, or how to organize a mission team within your church or LWML zone, please visit mostministries.org/team_schedule or contact MOST Ministries' Team Administrator, Kaleigh Bone at: kaleighb@mostministries.org; or (734) 994-7909 Ext. 3.

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We made new friends in El Paso, Juarez, from our Church and the MOST team. It made us think about different ways we can serve and be of service. Our team had high school aged kids to 80+ and everywhere in between. We learned together serving Jesus isn't confined to a specific age group. Our team bonded, our family grew closer, and we will serve again.



MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

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

IN MEMORY OF

Barbara Benecke by John Benecke
 Gregory Debner by Linda Debner
 Angela Debner by Linda Debner
 Loretta Lenz by Melinda Lenz
 Pat Ellis by David & Marcia Burk
 Janice Erdt by Les & Joyce Syring
 Timothy Krone by Lucie Witte
 Ethel Flegler by Brenda Flegler
 Rev. Karl Fuhlbrigge by Mary Fuhlbrigge
 Luella Garchow by Eleanor Krafft
 Larry Hempel by Chuck & Beth Hempel
 Clarence Rivers by Margaret Rivers
 Edwin Kern by Timothy Kern
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 Beverly Lueder by Clinton Lade
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 Ron Morley by David & Anita Beyersdorf Dr.
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 Ron Morley by Laurie Wagner
 Ron Morley by Amy Sullivan
 Ron Morley by Don & Dee Veitengruber
 Ron Morley by JoAnn Gust
 Ron Morley by William & Susan Turner
 Ron Morley by Carol Stuhr
 Ron Morley by Carol Wenzel

IN HONOR OF

Ruth Barritt by St. Martin Lutheran Church
 Charlotte Campbell by Janet Campbell
 Jacqueline Rullman by Glenn Rullman
 MOST Staff by Lillian Keller

Bethel Larsen by Scott & Gail Smith
 Duane & Katie Renken by John & Susan Drach
 The work you do by Darrell & Susan Miller

David & Nancy Cronce by Cynthia Reinhold
 Christ's Love by David & Shannon Fischer
 Lorrie Kirst by Richard Mahlke

Gifts can be made online or mailed

For information, contact Kelly Bone at 734-994-7909 or kbone@mostministries.org



Mission Opportunities Short Term

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