



Bearers of Hope

Mountain State Mission Offering

STATE GOAL 2018 \$290,000 2018

RECEIVED TO DATE: \$117,836

Your gifts to the **Mountain State Mission Offering** support everything we do together that we cannot do alone. As a part of the West Virginia Baptist family, you support:

- ♦ Area Ministers serving churches and staffing search committees
- ♦ Baptist Campus Ministries on seven campuses giving young adults support during their time at college
- ♦ Camp Cowen where people meet Jesus and grow as his disciples
- ♦ Parchment Valley where lives are changed

Doing together what we cannot do alone.

Prayerfully consider your gift to the **Mountain State Mission Offering.**



For more information, contact the office of
Mission Support
West Virginia Baptist Convention
PO Box 1019
Parkersburg, West Virginia 26102
Phone: 304-422-6449

John E. Simmons, Associate Executive Minister
jsimmons@wvbc.org

Lisa Simmons, Associate of Mission Support
Lsimmons@wvbc.org or 304-273-9693
Joan Hall, Administrative Assistant
hall@wvbc.org

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**Contact Joan at hall@wvbc.org
if you do not want to receive this mailing.**



**West Virginia Baptist Convention
Office of Mission Support
PO Box 1019
Parkersburg, WV 26102**

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MISSION MATTERS in the MOUNTAIN STATE

June 2018

Mission Matters is a
periodic update from
the offices of
Mission Support
of the WVBC.

This issue

- ♦ West Virginia Partners
- ♦ Juan & Denise Aragon
- ♦ J.D. & Rhonda Reed
- ♦ Keith & Debbie Myers
- ♦ Debbie Mulneix
- ♦ Rick & Anita Gutierrez
- ♦ Camp Global
- ♦ MSMO 2018

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www.abcusamissions.org
www.onegreathourofsharing.org
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www.stewardshipresources.org



DOING YOUR PART MATTERS

There was once a king who was visiting a town. In preparation for the king's visit the town decided to fill a giant barrel with wine and present it to the king upon his arrival. Where were they going to get so much wine to fill the giant barrel? They came up with a brilliant idea; each family of the town would bring one flask filled with wine and pour it into the giant barrel and this way the barrel would fill with wine.

They placed a giant barrel in the center of the town with a ladder reaching to the top and every-day people lined up to pour their flask of wine into the barrel.

The day finally arrived and the king visited the town. The people were so excited to present the king with this wonderful gift. The king was shown the barrel and was given a kingly goblet. They filled his goblet with wine from the giant barrel. The towns people were shocked by the look on the king's face as he drank the wine, the king was obviously very unhappy. When asked why he was so unhappy he responded, "It's just plain water". It turns out that each family thought to themselves why should I be the one to pour in a flask of wine I will pour in water instead, I am sure no one will notice if there is just one flask of water among all that wine. Everyone in the town made the same calculation and so no one poured in wine but rather water instead. Everyone was relying on someone else.

This story has been around a long time. But the point of the story remains true today. The mission for which God has brought us together requires each of us to do our part in supporting it. Your gifts to missions do make a difference!

We rely on every church to give its part in the support of the mission we have together. Our missionaries rely on your support for their work of taking the Gospel into the world.

Thank you for doing your part! Thank you for not thinking that everyone else does theirs so you can slack off. Thank you for being faithful supporters of God's work among us.



Our mission is to empower local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith, and to help them fulfill their mission by enabling them to do together what they cannot do alone.

MISSIONARY PARTNERS



J.D. & Rhonda Reed Family - Bolivia

J.D. and Rhonda Reed Update

As we have progressed to the end of yet another school year, we are excited about the teams this summer. As you read this we will be on a transition day for the House of Hope as a team from Parkway Baptist Church in Duluth, GA left this morning, ironically on the same plane that brought a team of youth and adults from New Baptist Church, (Guyandotte)

to work to help us on a joint project. While here, the teams were working with one of the ministries we support to build a church building. We are excited to begin using a new locally-sourced building product that is both inexpensive and reliable. We can't wait to show you the finished product! Pray for the team that is leaving today and heading back to Georgia and also for the New Baptist team as they arrive to join in the fun.

We are also excited to tell you that the House of Hope is now officially a Non-Profit Foundation. *Fundación Proyectos de Esperanza Bolivia* (Projects of Hope Foundation – Bolivia) is the new official name. Don't worry though, the House of Hope will still have the same name. We also want to share that we are in the process of purchasing a HOH multi-purpose bus having received the generous donations and offerings of churches and individuals that support the House of Hope. (Hey, maybe we should call it the Bus of Hope? What do you think?) Thank you so much to all those that helped us raise the money necessary for this great ministry tool. We will use this 26-passenger bus with teams that visit and also as a "rolling" medical and dental clinic and much more. Stay tuned to see all the ways that your gift is impacting the ministry of the House of Hope.



There are some big announcements and projects that are coming up in the next year that you don't want to miss out on. Do you receive our e-newsletters? We try to send out at least six newsletters each year by email to those that sign up. If you aren't on the list and wish that you were, please email the phrase "sign me up" to admin@hohbolivia.org and we will get you on the list.

On the theological education side of things, we just had our first graduating class in the Masters of Theological Studies in Latino/a Ministries at Palmer Seminary. A group of over 20 students from Mexico and also living in the United States (but from all over Latin America) joined other Palmer graduates on May 11 to



receive their diplomas. We are so proud of our first graduating class and excited to see what they are going to do. Next school year (2018-19) we will be starting two new groups in Mexico and Brazil and preparing to open cohorts in the Dominican Republic and possibly Cuba. We also need your help in providing scholarships to pastors and leaders in these areas to help them afford to receive this innovative education opportunity.

If you are interested, please email jd.reed@internationalministries.org and find out more today! God is truly blessing His work around the world and we are excited to be a part of what He is doing in Bolivia and throughout Latin America. May God's blessings and joy be present with you, and as always we are...

Praying for you all,
J.D. and Rhonda Reed

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

INTRODUCING MISSION ENCOUNTER EDUCATION TRAINING M. E. E. T.



M.E.E.T. helps young adults encounter missions through a structured program that partners them with an International Ministries missionary for an intense international externship.

M.E.E.T. is built on relationships with the participants, the IM missionaries, and the Convention staff.

All participants in M.E.E.T. will:

- ◆ Be dedicated Christians who are active in a ministry of the West Virginia Baptist Convention
- ◆ Identify a place of interest and work with Mission Support staff to discern and relate to an IM missionary
- ◆ Work alongside IM missionaries in their country of service and area of ministry as directed and supervised by the missionary
- ◆ Be responsible for the cost of travel, food, lodging and other expenses related to the encounter
- ◆ Be Christ-like in their service, behavior and witness
- ◆ Take direction and instruction from the missionary
- ◆ Take part in a debriefing following the externship with staff and be willing to share the encounter with others

2018 M.E.E.T. EXTERNS

CHIAPAS, MEXICO

Isaac Brown, Gage Ross, Andrew O'Callaghan

PUEBLA, MEXICO

Jordan Lallemond

**Camp Global
2018
August 10-12**
**Family Mission Camp
at Cowen**



Speak it ! Share it ! Show it !

Registration Friday
6:00PM
Evening program
at 7:00 PM
Ends Sunday at 1:00 PM

Cost: \$90 per person
\$350 max for family
\$40 Saturday only

Registration form will be
mailed to you after July 1.

available online at
www.wvbc.org
Click on: Camp Global

Questions: email Joan at
hall@wvbc.org
or call 304.422.6449

* Meet Missionaries
Rick & Anita Gutierrez
from South Africa

* Programming for
children, youth and
adults

* Hands on activities

* Bible Study and much
more

MISSIONARY PARTNERS



Debbie Mulneix
Regional Missionary
To Asia and SE Asia

***“But they who hope in the Lord shall renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”
Isaiah 40:31***

Have you ever thought to yourself, “I would love to go on a mission trip, but I am all thumbs, especially with a hammer!” Or, “It seems the mission team is only looking for young people.” Maybe, “If I were a doctor (or theologian, or dentist, or teacher, or....), I would join that team!”

HAVE WE GOT SOME NEWS FOR YOU!!!

We are looking for people like you to offer the “Gift of Presence” to our partners in Asia.

Maybe you have never heard of that gift, but I believe you have probably been sharing it with family, friends, and neighbors your entire life. You present this gift to people when you ask about their sick mother and then allow them to talk, or offer to help them refinish a cabinet, or watch their dog while they are on vacation, or take a cake to their home when there is a death in the family. See, you have been offering yourself, your “presence” all your life.



Group in Philippines

These mission teams are called **“Friendship Tours.”** We have had several during spring of 2018 and they were very well received by the partners, and the teams enjoyed this way of learning, listening and helping. The mission partners enjoy when someone comes to learn more about their country and what it is like to be a Christian in their country. Several of the countries do not have full-time missionaries from IM. So they really appreciate the physical encouragement that the teams bring.

My joy comes when I see a person who had some misgivings about the trip, finally realizing how much they enjoy learning about a person and their country, someone who they may never see again, but will remain a long-term prayer partner through the internet. But what does this scripture have to do with this program? There is never a time in life that we lose our usefulness to God. No matter your time of life, a time to “fly, run or walk,” God can make you a precious addition to the team. Just say YES!

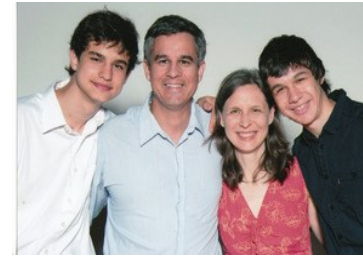
For information about teams that will be forming in the months to come me. I am so blessed to have my neighbors in West Virginia as my partners in missions, no matter where the Lord takes me. You have been constantly in my prayers, and I know that you continue to keep me in your prayers. I will be available for several weeks in West Virginia this fall. I hope to see many of you in your churches and association meetings. You can contact me at dmulneix@aol.com, or contact Lisa Simmons at lsimmons@wvbc.org. Thank you for all of your support and love through the years.

Prayer Requests

- ◆ We have many countries that would like to have visitors. Pray that people of all ages say “Yes” to the possibilities.
- ◆ That those who cannot give their “presence” overseas, realize how much they can help and encourage those around them.
- ◆ That our churches become stronger in faith and more gentle in spirit.

Yours in Christ,
Debbie Mulneix

MISSIONARY PARTNERS



Rick and Anita Gutierrez
South Africa

Dear West Virginia Baptists,

We thank you for your partnership in prayers and support for our mission to Southern Africa with a branch to Hungary. We have graduated a total of 40 Health Builders over the past year, a record number of people trained in a year. The husband and wife team of Sam and ZlNy Makiba Of Umlazi have trained 17 people alongside us. Last



Sam and ZlNy Makiba

December they started a school in Durban to train health building skills along with home visitation skills and first aid. They had about 25 students for their program, which runs for one year when we visited them this March. Please pray that they are successful in reaching their goals for the school and passing the needed evaluations for certification of their school and program.

In the past two years, West Virginia Baptists have worked with us and the Hungarian Baptists to



West Virginia Team in Hungary

interact with the Roma Gypsy community for health and Bible work, as well as health and building work with the Hungarian Baptist church. We will follow up again later this summer after we are in the mountain state by working again with the Roma community on blood pressure assessment skills as well as health and bible outreach. We will also be meeting with officials of Hungarian Baptist Aid and other organizations, as well as our fellow missionaries to discuss ways of collaboration for health and evangelism.

Currently there is another outbreak of Ebola in the Congo. Our French language Ebola animated video will help inform people about how to avoid this infection. Additionally, vaccination and other measures will be taken to stop this outbreak and should be much more successful than the devastating outbreak of 2013. We continue to work toward additional medical skills in Lifestyle Medicine, a new specialty with a focus on health promotion and disease prevention via lifestyle intervention. Last year was the first year for examination in this specialty. Anita and I plan to take the board certification exam in October 2018.



Working together for the health of
Hungary Roma and Baptists with
West Virginia Baptists

Our sons Marc and Paul are both enjoying the summer working in Michigan where we are visiting them when we can along with our church visitations and health clinics here. Anita and I are going to do a little camping along our path of thanking supporters and church fellowships in the next two weeks.

We are looking forward to seeing you at Green Lake and Camp Global or in your churches in August!

Yours in Christ,
Rick and Anita Gutierrez

MISSIONARY PARTNERS IN MEXICO



Keith & Debbie Myers
Family - Mexico

Greetings from Puebla!

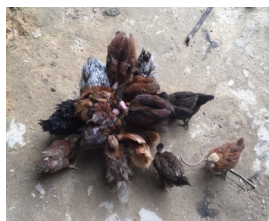
The Myers Family is in transition again. We have wrapped up our year in the U.S. and are settling into life again here in Mexico. We were so blessed to be able to have our “home base” at the Wolfe-Killingsworth Missionary House at Parchment Valley. It was such a relief to arrive to a home that was ready for us. On the same note, leaving wasn’t stressful either. We are jumping right back into ministry.

Our partner, CICEM will have a three-day board meeting at our house in June. Jordan Lallemon will be helping us with various ministries during the month of June.

Times are set up for us to visit several of our churches above Mexico City and Sierra Norte de Puebla. Please pray for Hermano Fausto and Pastora Irma as they both are battling cancer. There are upcoming National and local elections in Mexico during June and July. Prayers are appreciated for a peaceful election.

We want to say “Thank You” to all who support us prayerfully and financially. We are sorry that we were not able to visit every person and church that supports us, but please know that you are very important to us. We cannot do what God has called us to do without you. You truly are the hands, feet and heart of God.

Chickens, chickens and more chickens



In Genesis 1:28, *God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply...”* God surely is multiplying the chicken project in Mexico among the CICEM churches. First, we want to thank all who have prayed and given money toward this project. When we were first developing it, we had no idea what God was going to do.

Let me refresh your memory about the purpose of the chicken project. Five families from each of the CICEM churches receive 24 laying chicks, two bags of feed, fencing and a coop to protect them. The church leaders decide who is in need of this project. They choose widows, single mothers or large families that need extra help with food. This project adds protein in their diet, which is much needed, and if they have any extra eggs, then they can trade them or sell them to get other food they need. In turn, each recipient donates the equivalent of one kilo of eggs back to CICEM each month to be able to duplicate this program to others. The WV American Baptist Women’s Ministries raised \$26,572 for the chicken project.

For any project you need a dreamer (Deb), a planner (Keith) and a lot of God. Many times Keith has said to me, “Deb, God did not call me to Mexico to build chicken coops.” Then I would say, “If He didn’t want the project to succeed, then He wouldn’t have provided the resources.” We minister in four states in Mexico, so there are various types of climates. In turn, each region has a variation of the coop, CICEM has 37 churches. This is not only a project for women but for the men as well.



Chicken coop

Blessings,
Keith, Debbie, Boyden and Baillie



Juan, Denise, Juancito & Zeba
Aragon Mexico

Greetings from Chiapas!

Still trying to find out a way to hug all of you via written words ... Can you believe it has been almost nine months of our family, the Aragon’s, living in Mexico? Gladly in these nine months, the kids have adjusted and most days we get the hang of things, of course always missing our friends, seeing the seasons change and Juancito says “pepperoni rolls”!

In this opportunity we want to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to everyone who has been praying for us, liking our pictures on Facebook and commenting. It makes us feel like we are just down the road or the holler. We also want to say “muchas gracias”, to all the

West Virginia AB Women’s Ministries groups that helped finance our ministry vehicle. Since December 2017, the Toyota has seen beautiful scenery in the community, has had many fingerprints of children’s hands, experienced the dusty and rugged roads of Chiapas and on several occasions Juan has used the 4x4 to get out of very sticky situations. It has given several lifts to people walking from their

coffee plantations in one town to the other town several miles down the road or up the mountain. The truck has been driven by the Interim Executive Minister of the West Virginia Baptist Convention, and the kids along with Denise, have enjoyed the privilege of riding in the back.



Some of our prayer requests are:

- ◆ For the three West Virginian college students who are joining us for about a month. May the Lord bless, expand their views on the world, bring out their passion to serve God and protect them in every second, from the moment they leave their house, until they get back.
- ◆ Ziba will be turning five on the 4th of July. May her parents and new community make her feel loved, special and most importantly loved by God.
- ◆ Knowing how to navigate the kid’s summer vacations and ministry opportunities, in ways that Juancito and Ziba will not resent our family’s calling to serve Him.
- ◆ In July, Mexico will have presidential elections. Praying everything goes smoothly and there is no uprising and the country remains in peace.
- ◆ For our families in Nicaragua, for the future of Nicaragua and, as Juancito has prayed, for the killing to stop in Nicaragua.

Gracias Deos,
Juan, Denise, Juancito and Ziba