

A Miracle of Love

By Betty J. Adams



Killer bee victim Miguel with Betty Adams and Dr. Barbara Julier

his medical care. He held onto my daughter's hands tightly, begging her not to leave.

While she was busy with him, my husband noticed 15-year-old Rosa sitting nearby. Rosa has cerebral palsy and was never able to talk or walk unaided. But as is the custom in these villages, she was cared for at home by other members of the family. Rosa seemed to be such a sweet girl that my husband felt immediately drawn to her. He sat beside her, stroking her hand and patting her cheek.

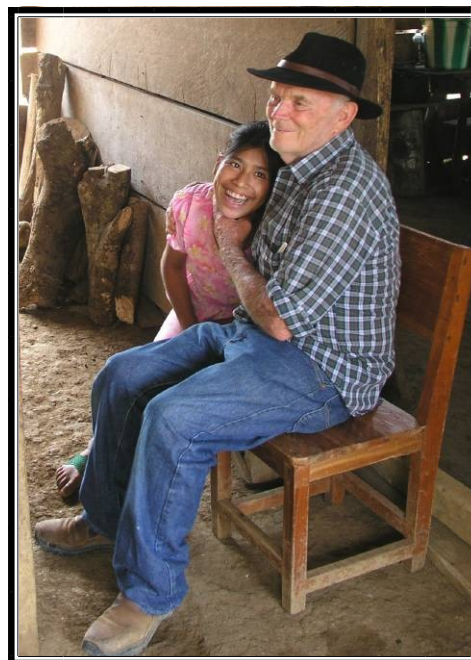
When the rest of us left, my husband stayed on for a while longer. But finally he, too got up to leave. As he walked down the trail away from the humble home, someone called out to him, "Señor Adams, look behind you!" As he turned, he saw Rosa, awkwardly stumbling toward him, walking completely unaided. Although she had to be helped back to her hut, for the first time in her life she had walked without help.

When my husband rejoined us, he tried to describe what had happened. But his eyes filled with tears and he choked up, unable to finish the story. My tough, stoic 82-year-old husband, retired logger, WW 2 veteran, and veteran of many mission experiences, had been touched as never before. Several days went by before he was able to share all the details, how Rosa had actually

walked toward him, with a big smile on her face, finally resting her hand on his chest as if to say "please don't leave!" The love in Rosa's eyes had impacted him deeply, and he will always treasure this unforgettable experience.

This and many other experiences made our trip worth all the expense and effort of participating as we witnessed the true miracle of love.

Betty Adams writes from the Sierra foothills near Placerville, CA. She enjoys mission trips, visiting her grandchildren and gardening.



Rosa and Mr. Adams bonded right away

On our last day in San Lorenzo during our mission trip we visited 82-year-old Miguel Diaz, who had been stung by a swarm of angry killer bees 12 years before. Miguel had lain comatose in his cornfield most of the day in the hot sun until he was eventually found and carried back to his village. It was a miracle that he even survived, though Miguel was unable to function normally after his ordeal. He spent most of his time in bed or outside in a hammock. Although Miguel could talk very little, tears of joy and gratitude ran down his cheeks as we discussed

Mission Trip



San Lorenzo school is located at the base of these towering peaks in the mountains of Chiapas in south Mexico

from many other states throughout the U.S. and Mexico as well.

We are especially grateful to Gene Witzel from Arkansas who put to use his many years of mission experience by going to San Lorenzo ahead of our group to make sure everything was ready for our arrival—and that's a **big** job! Then he had to coordinate the construction once our group arrived—an even **bigger** job!

The trip had three main purposes: 1) Visit MPI-supported projects and workers throughout Mexico & Belize, 2) Participate in a group mission project in Chiapas and 3) Meet at Linda Vista University for MPI's annual board meeting.



San Lorenzo students

Dear MPI Friends,

March was a special month for MPI members and friends who participated in "Friends With a Mission." It was an awesome experience to see God's grace in action from beginning to end. Organizing and mobilizing 70 people on a project like this without major mishaps is a miracle in itself! Participants included student groups from Sandia View Academy in New Mexico, DayStar Academy in Utah, a hardworking construction crew from Hayfork, CA, a surgical team from Maine and volunteers



Fred Adams and Gene Witzel discussing construction details

Below: Partial group photo of folks who participated at San Lorenzo

The mission project activities began after volunteers drove or flew thousands of miles, eventually reaching the remote jungle village of San Lorenzo in Chiapas, south Mexico. We were based at the 12-grade school where 7 teachers attempt to educate 150 lively, energetic students. Other articles in this issue describe experiences from the perspective of others who participated.





The Fernández family in 1985

Time after time God provided for our needs in unexpected ways. Linda Vista University sent Himer Pérez to translate and assist Gene Witzel as he obtained last-minute construction materials. Linda Vista also purchased and delivered all cooking supplies & food, sending Eva Ruth, a topnoch cook to oversee food preparation.

Members of the Fernández family, mostly little kids whom we had known and helped while serving in Chiapas many years ago, are now adults who gladly came to our aid. They helped with airport customs & ticket arrangements, provided transportation, ran errands and were always at hand for any needs we had.



These 3 Fernández brothers now tower over Betty & Celian Adams

Upon arriving in south Mexico, we encountered suffocating 100° heat and high humidity. As a quadriplegic I realized I would not be able to survive the week ahead. But Israel, my for-

mer carpentry student 18 years ago, now owns an air conditioning business in a big city. He loaned me a brand new air conditioner, which made it possible for me to remain with the group. True, I had to coordinate many activity details from a bed in a wood building in front of the A/C, but at least I could go out and see the work progress during the cool mornings and evenings!

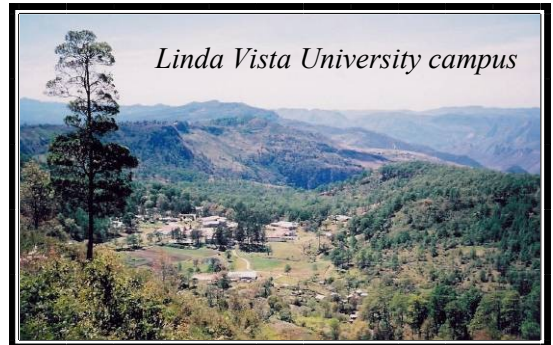
Before we left San Lorenzo, the school leaders met with me to plead for someone with experience and vision to spend a few months at their school and guide them in forming a Master Plan, show them how to build up school industries, and generally get the school headed in the right direction. For 22 years these Indigenous people have moved forward to the best of their abilities, but when they began gaining insights from Americans during our visit, they realized there is so much more potential for their school. They are eagerly seeking ways to move forward. Anyone interested? Or do you know anyone who might be?

From San Lorenzo we climbed high into the pine-forested mountains to Linda Vista University for our annual MPI board meetings. We heard thrilling firsthand reports from the front lines of missions as dozens of laymen from all over south Mexico interacted with our group. Their glowing faces and enthusiastic presentations left no doubt that they are really on fire to spread the Gospel. They expressed heartfelt appreciation to the many donors who are sacrificing to sponsor them. During 2002 they baptized more than 600 persons and established 21 Companies of new believers, mostly in previously unentered areas.



T-shirt design worn by participants & Mexican friends depicts the San Lorenzo peaks and intercultural unity

MPI voted funds to help complete four new churches, provide literature for use by all our laymen, and hundreds of Bibles from funds raised by kids in the U.S. San Lorenzo school Administrator Dionisio López now has a telephone at his remote school location, provided through MPI.



Linda Vista University campus

It felt so good to be there—not only because of the cool, clear air and peaceful setting, but also because Linda Vista has been “home” to three generations of our family. My parents volunteered there since 1958, Diana and I served as missionaries there for 12 years, our son Daniel was born there, and I became paralyzed in a construction accident there 16 years ago. As old friends crowded around to greet us, it felt like a small taste of what Heaven will be like. The outpouring of love and hospitality was overwhelming, and everyone in our group was greatly blessed.

If you want to get out of a rut and rekindle your passion for life, find a way to get involved personally in missions!
-Fred Adams

A Different Kind of “Vacation” . . .

By Dr. Linda Adams

I was first exposed to missions at the age of six months when my parents went on vacation to Mexico. They started out to visit friends just across the border in northeastern Mexico and somehow ended up 1,000 miles south in the state of Chiapas, at a Seventh-day Adventist boarding school that was just being established high up in the mountains. I ended up spending most of my growing-up years at this school, now known as Linda Vista University.



Linda with a Mexican friend

We were not the usual missionary family supported by the church—I have yet to see the Church place a call for a logger! My parents saw a need and wanted to help. They found that, by living very carefully, we could work at the family logging business in northern California during the



Adams family logging operation in 1971

summer and have enough money to spend the winter—and thus the school year for us kids—in Mexico. We drove down to Chiapas each year, packing our car and trailer with supplies for the next nine months.

I helped with Branch Sabbath Schools, but mostly I just did the normal things

kids do as they grow up—exploring, getting into trouble, playing and fighting with my brother & sister, going to school with my friends and graduating.

Whenever we visited the villages we would be surrounded by kids who had lice, sores on their bodies, constant coughs and runny noses; and I always wanted to be able to help them. So I came up to the States and went to Medical school.

After I completed my Residency I started working in the ER at Orthopaedic Hospital in downtown Los Angeles, which is where I still work. I kept busy, bought a car,

bought a house, and, well, just didn't have time or money to go on mission trips. Seemed like taxes and bills were always due, therefore extra shifts needed to be worked, and . . . there was always next year.

Then, 8 years ago my sister Lanita and her family went on a mission trip to the Yucatán Peninsula near Cancún. Yep, right on the beach. My sister kept telling me that was something I should do, so I decided to check it out. I will do most anything to spend time with my nieces and nephews. I thought I was on VACATION and had fun with the kids. When the rest of the group found out I was a doctor playing auntie, they quickly put me to work—and that was the end of my vacation! From 1998 to 2002 I volunteered with the same group and gradually assumed more responsibilities.

Three years ago when the book *Prayer of Jabez* became popular, I started praying “expand my territory.” That year I was asked to direct the medical aspect of the mission trip, which involved an extra “pre-trip” to Mexico to scout out locations for clinics, find an operating room available for the surgical team, and secure permission from state and local authorities. As I usually prefer to remain low key and in the background, that **really** expanded my borders!

Over the last couple of years several physicians and nurses approached me regarding a Mission to Chiapas—they would go if I organized a trip. I'd been toying with the idea for a while, then in Sept. 2002 a surgeon from Portland, Maine called and asked if I was serious about planning a trip.

His team needed to know right away so they could purchase airline tickets. I said yes, they bought their tickets . . . and I was committed! I dedicated the trip to God and started praying for Chiapas. A group of friends also prayed for me and the trip.



Linda treating a patient in Mexico

With a lot of help from my brother Fred and his organizational skills, who did all the computer work and much of the communication, the trip started coming together.

I thought 20, MAYBE 30 people would volunteer for



Our awesome surgery team from Maine

the 10-day mission. Instead, almost 70 people of different faiths signed up! They ranged in age from 9 to 82 years, and came from 12 different states. Plus 20 nursing students from the Adventist University in Chiapas asked to participate!

The purpose of the trip, which happened just this past March, was to build 6 classrooms and to provide medical and dental care to villages where none is available. When the people in these mountain villages need medical care, they have to travel many hours out to the nearest medical facility on foot or mule or, if they have enough money to pay for a ride, in a pickup. Can you imagine riding 4 hours over rough dirt roads when you have acute appendicitis? And not only once, but twice? This happened to one poor



Construction crew hard at work on new classrooms

lady when the doctors in town misdiagnosed her symptoms and sent her home, so the second time she went out with a ruptured appendix—and survived!

In spite of the time, hard work, and usual problems which will be encountered any time you have 70+ people in primitive conditions eating different food, sleeping on hard floors, working in the hot sun in high humidity, and getting sick from being in the blazing sun all day, overall it was the most positive, awesome mission trip I've experienced so far.

We treated 320 patients; one dentist pulled 290 teeth from 201 mouths; the surgery team operated on 25 patients; eyeglasses were distributed to 140 persons; nursing students gave health talks, distributed toothbrushes, washed and cut children's hair to rid them of lice, cleaned and bathed patients confined to their huts, etc. Visitation teams distributed clothing and toys in more than 150 needy village

homes; six classroom walls were built and steel trusses placed. And all this happened in only 4½ work days! We ran out of time and money and didn't get the roof on the classrooms or the concrete floors poured, which greatly disappointed Gene Witzel our head builder. I felt so bad for him as I had to practically pry him off the scaffolding to get him on the last vehicle out of the village late Friday afternoon!



C'mon Mr. Witzel . . . We have to leave NOW!

But there was so much more than the numbers and the people we went to serve; the changes and experiences within the group were the most powerful. As Rick Warren says in his book *The Purpose Driven Life*, "Although it is a big responsibility, it is also an incredible honor to be used by God." I feel happiest when I'm fulfilling God's purpose for my life.

Dr. Linda Adams writes from southern California. She works long shifts at the hospital so she can spend time visiting nieces & nephews and participate in mission trips.

“Scared to Death” about the Mission Trip

By Betty Adams



Bob was popular with the kids

After “Big Bob” Napoletano signed up for our “Friends with a Mission,” he told his pastor and other friends, “I’m scared to death about going on this trip.” A new Christian, in his mid sixties, Bob had never gone on a mission trip.

When we reached the village of San Lorenzo, normally talkative and “tough guy” Bob was speechless at the living conditions he saw. In fact, he almost couldn’t handle it. Later he said, “If I’d had a car my first day

there, I would have gone home right then.”

Even though he didn’t speak the language, Bob soon began to make friends with the children, using a supply of candy he’d brought to communicate. Before long he had friends wherever he went, and worked right along with the others on the new school rooms. Always looking for ways to help, Bob shared popcicles



Bob holds a mirror for Tony Fritz

Now Bob says, “If you ever get a chance to go on a mission trip—don’t miss it!” As I write, Bob is preparing to leave on another mission trip in a couple of weeks, this time to the Dominican Republic.

Betty Adams works with “Big Bob” at Community Services in Placerville, CA.

E-mail Feedback

Dear Fred,

I just want you to know that I truly enjoyed the trip. It was a wonderful learning experience for me. Thank you so much! I realize how fortunate I was in going on this mission trip.

One night Pastor Torrez asked why we were there. I didn't know and had no idea. Now I realize that it opened my eyes to what I should expect when I go overseas for a year as a Student Missionary. It won't be easy, but I'm sure it will be a blessing!

-Brenda Flores (Keene, TX)



Hi Fred,

It's me, Jim. I spoke with you on Sunday morning. I really appreciate your ideas on sponsoring the school in San Lorenzo. I am glad to donate money every month to contribute to the education of these beautiful children.

Thank you once again and God bless you on your work here on earth.

“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.” (Galatians. 6:10)

-Jim Basit (Rio Rancho, NM)



Tired of Eating Tortillas

By Dr. Barbara Julier

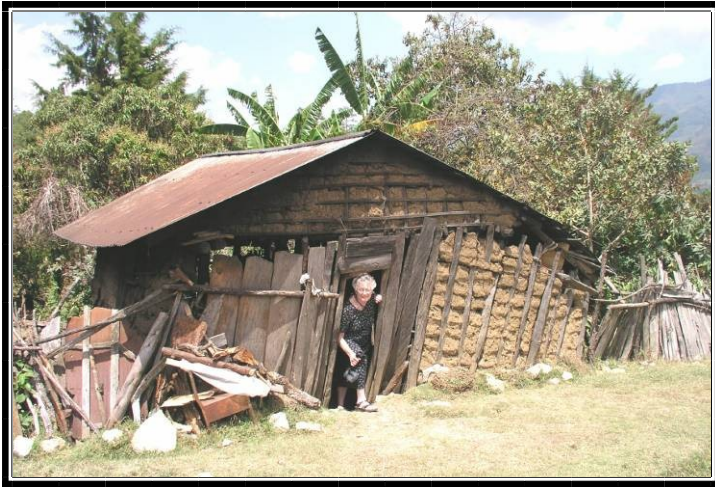
We were enjoying a lovely Sabbath at beautiful Linda Vista University, a jewel of a school in the forested mountains of south Mexico. The Adams family invited us to visit a small church in the nearby village of Maravillas, so we squeezed into Fred's van. Half an hour later we were seated on wooden benches in the small cabin-like church. There were probably 25-30 folks attending, enthusiastically singing and worshipping.

At the end of the service, those desiring special prayer were invited to go forward. An elderly man, Antonio Ruiz, rose stiffly and hobbled to the front. He indicated that he had trouble walking, had poor vision and didn't feel well.



Dr. Julier visits Micaela & Antonio Ruiz, trying to find a way to help them survive

This is just one example of widespread hardship around the world, which many of us never see or experience unless we visit other parts of our planet. Our contributions may seem so insignificant, but they can make a world of difference to each person we help. Let's keep working diligently, and praying for the day when all things will be made new—the day when there will be no more suffering and death.



Dr. Julier makes a "House Call" at the Ruiz home

Dr. Linda Adams decided to visit Antonio's home, so several of us walked through the village over rough ground to a sagging, breezy cabin where he lives with his little wife and their old pet cat. Their beds consist of wooden planks covered with thin blankets. Another room had a small table and a slow fire cooking beans in a clay pot. Antonio's wife Micaela looked so thin and bony, and her mouth and skin were dry. She told us she didn't feel like eating her tortillas anymore, and since Antonio was unable to work, they didn't have any money.

Their adult children had their hands full feeding their own kids; so all they could provide was a small supply of black beans. They certainly were at risk for starvation. We left some money with them and tried to share a few words of encouragement.

Back at Linda Vista University, Linda arranged for the nursing students to make Antonio and Micaela a supportive project.



This breezy hut contains the bare necessities

Barbara Julier is a retired physician from Placerville, CA. She enjoys volunteering her services in Alaska and many other places, bringing compassion and relief to people who are suffering.

Breakdowns and Blessings . . .

By June Anderson



June Anderson (left) with her friend Elidia Walker

As I ponder the memories of our trip to Mexico, the words of the song "My Tribute" keep running through my mind: "How can I say thanks for the things You have done for me, things so undeserved, yet You give to prove Your love for me?"

God's love came through loud and clear in many ways on this trip. Even after checking things out to the very best of human ability before leaving, we had many problems

with our truck. To be stranded beside the road on three different occasions is not my idea of a good time! But it amazes me that even though we were in situations completely out of our control, God was still in charge.

Our first breakdown happened on a curvy mountain road in Mexico, where it took two days to get the problem fixed. But God was there, working through our Mexican bus driver Norberto. We could not speak each others' languages, but Norberto could see that we didn't have the right tools to remove the wheel bearings and related components. A trucker pulled up, and after talking with Norberto he



The Andersons and their countless God-sent helpers spent many hours literally "on their knees!"

went back to his "tool kit" (it was a plastic coolant container with the top cut out) and brought one of the tools we needed. But we still lacked another tool, and about that time another trucker pulled in. He checked his "tool kit" and found the other tool we needed! That to me was a definite God solution! And during the next two days, several Mexicans made multiple trips to the city, hours away, until the right parts could be located and installed. We felt so blessed!

The second breakdown happened on our return trip, where we spent half a day in sweltering heat, while again people volunteered their time to find parts and assist with repairs. A week later found us in a blinding Wyoming snowstorm, where our transmission gave out. But once again, God provided the people and facilities to cover our needs. We have so much to be thankful for!

In many ways, these trips are like three blind men trying to describe an elephant as one feels a leg, another the trunk and a third the tail. That's because our impressions come from what we were doing while we were in San Lorenzo—whether it was working in the cafeteria, building six classrooms, working with the medical and dental teams or doing evaluations for the needs in the village. For me, going into the homes of the villagers was most rewarding, because I actually saw for myself what life is like for them. We have so much and they have so little!



Lady pressing and cooking tortillas on open platform stove in her simple hut

Even after giving everything we had to give, the needs were still numberless, and it seemed that what we could do was kind of hopeless. But after talking with a friend, I came to realize they are still better off than when we arrived.

Elaine Fithian from Nevada took a lot of Vacation Bible School craft supplies. I really enjoyed observing the response of the children when they got to do something as simple as coloring a picture. Some of the children just held

... And More Blessings!



Brown and white, young and old, all worked together to get those new classrooms built!

the markers in their hands—they didn't even know how to use them! They had fun watching the color it made on their coloring pages.

And it was a joy to watch our students from DayStar and Sandia View Academies interact with these young villagers—whether it was handing out clothes and toys, helping with VBS or sifting sand for construction.

We had the opportunity to make new friends that we'll probably never see again until Heaven. As the memories blend in now with life back in the wonderful United States, it makes me think again of the song "My Tribute" — "To God be the glory, for the things He hath done!"

June Anderson and her husband Mel live near Bozeman, Montana. June handles MPI correspondence while Mel buys used vehicles, fixes them up, and sells them to support mission projects in Mexico. Let's hope the ones he sells hold up better than their own truck did!

Mission Trip

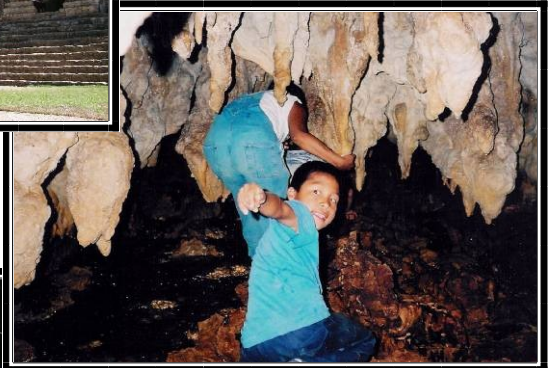


Laymen lined up to talk with Fred at MPI board meeting



Mission trip volunteers visited Palenque ruins on their free day

Odds 'N' Ends



Exploring caves near San Lorenzo



Sleeping conditions were cramped and floors very hard for volunteers in San Lorenzo!



Natives cut all lumber by chainsaw in the jungle



Fred in TracAbout with colorful Chamula ladies

Hospital Comes Under New Management

By Jerry & Wendy Harris

La Loma Luz Hospital (LLL) is located in the beautiful country of Belize. The sounds of birds call the workers to an early rising and ocean breezes cool the warm land. Many blessings have been bestowed on this land and it is a beautiful sight to any who get to see it. Twenty miles east of Guatemala, the hospital is located on a hillside. It has been faithfully serving the people of Belize since 1971.

The most significant happening at LLL this year is the hiring of a new hospital administrator filling a position that has been vacant since June 2002. Hospital management is nothing new to LLL administrator Jorge Newball. He has been the administrator of the Adventist hospital in Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, the Adventist hospital in Barquisimeto, Venezuela and most recently at the Valley of the Angels Adventist Hospital in Honduras.

Commenting on his call to come to La Loma Luz, Mr. Newball said, "When we were asked to come to La Loma Luz Hospital, we prayed and felt impressed that the Lord



*LLL Hospital administrator
Jorge Newball & wife*

wanted us to come, though we had other plans. We are sure that the Lord is going to bless our contribution to this institution, and each day we place our efforts in His hand."

There has also been a reorganization of the local LLL Board. This board has been working hard on a "master plan" for the hospital, allow-

ing it to better serve the people. Also, they are working on making sure all procedures and documents are in order to meet the progressing requirements of the country. This has meant a lot of volunteer hours for the board members, which meet once every two weeks in order to accomplish these goals. The board has many gifted members with a variety of skills and talents. This has been a wonderful blessing for the issues and projects that the board has been working on. Some recent additions to the board include Jack Barnes, a retired executive with Dell Computers, Mar-



(Left to right) LLL Board members Pastor Luis Jesse, Jorge Newball, Odette Pérez, John Acott, Dr. Alfonso Ayala, Marcelo Cardona, Jack Barnes, Marcel Bedran

cel Bedran, a local real estate agent, John Acott, an international transportation specialist, and Dr. Alfonso Ayala, a local government physician. We are thankful for the hard work and dedication these board members have freely given to LLL.

Another blessing to La Loma Luz has been that of Kevin and Jealynn Bahnmitter, BOTH 2002 graduates of Walla Walla College.

Kevin gave 7 months of his time to establish a previously nonexistent accounting system making management of the whole institution easier. Kevin's dedication and attention to details has immensely helped the hospital. Kevin and Jealynn are leaving soon, but we are extremely grateful for their dedication to the hospital.



*Volunteers Kevin & Jealynn
Bahnmitter blessed LLL greatly*

Jerry & Wendy Harris live in Castle Valley, Utah, where Jerry serves as Principal of DayStar Academy and volunteers for MPI as Treasurer.

Special Occasion & Me-

MPI Members

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gbklandregg@nidlink.com

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(406) 363-3080

Treasurer: *Jerry & Wendy Harris* - (Castle Valley, UT)
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Newsletter and Communications: *Fred & Diana Adams* - (Placerville, CA)
(530) 642-9441 adams@directcon.net

Huichol Project: *Karen Kotoske* - (Palo Alto, CA)
Dagoberto Cirilo - (Guadalajara, Mexico)

Worthy Students: *Gwen Emmerson* - (Billings, MT)
Loron Wade - (Montemorelos, Mexico)

Other Members: *Mel & June Anderson* - (Bozeman, MT)
Fred & Velma Beavon - (Dayton, MT)
Harold & Norma Beavon - (Gold Canyon, AZ)
Eddie & Lorraine Hamilton - (Salmon, ID)
Derek & Frances Miller - (Gentry, AR)
Philip & Sonatina Mitchell - (Huntsville, AL)
Elidia Walker - (Superior, AZ)

And we consider each person who supports us with your prayers and/or contributions to be a part of the MPI family as well!

Website: www.tagnet.org/mpi

At Rest . . .

Craig, Emma T.
By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke

Crews, Joe
By Ruth Wiebold

Debose, Bob
By Arvel & Vernita Sage

Downs, Marla
By Laural & Barbara Sage

Eastham, Chet
By Lloyd Looney

Finn, Arleen
By Arvel & Vernita Sage

Hemphill, Donald
By Arvel & Vernita Sage

Hutson, Edith
By Russ & Carol Johnson

Jill
By Ron & Sherry Livingston

Locke, David
By Don & Marilyn Locke

Lowry, Willis G.
By Marjorie Durham

Swanson, Wayne
By Mildred & Arnold Swanson

Voth, Esther
By Arvel & Vernita Sage

Wells, Marian
By Arvel & Vernita Sage

Withrow, Leonard
By Arvel & Vernita Sage

Anniversary . . .

Esther & J.K. Martínez
By Pastor & Mrs. Dale Wolcott

Birthdays . . .

Lindsay Garbutt

Margie
By Wayne Moore

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MPI staff serve as volunteers from their homes across the country. Our overhead expenses are low, and covered from other sources.

This makes it possible for us to send 100% of your contributions to the MPI projects you designate.

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Invade Chiapas

What is MPI?

Mission Projects, Incorporated is a supporting organization of the Seventh-day Adventist church, dedicated to spreading the Gospel by way of medical, educational and evangelistic endeavors. M.P.I. works in complete harmony with local Conferences and Missions, and is a member of Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (A.S.I.).

Please return this card with your tax-deductible donation to:
M.P.I. ♦ P.O. Box 1950 ♦ Bozeman, MT 59771
Indicate amount donated to each fund

\$ _____ La Loma Luz Hospital (Belize)	\$ _____ Lay Workers
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_____ Spanish Literature	_____ Church Roofs
_____ San Lorenzo Teacher Salaries	_____ Church Construction
_____ Worthy Student Fund	_____ Use where needed most
_____ Bibles for Mexico	_____ Other _____

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Please send us your new address 4 to 6 weeks in advance. That will save us the additional expense of forwarded or returned newsletters. Thanks!