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### Important Notice!

Do you wish to continue receiving the MPI Newsletter? We are more than glad to keep you on our mailing list if you enjoy reading it. Our purpose is to provide you with a first-hand report of ongoing mission work, giving you the opportunity to pray for and support the projects of your choice. However, there may be some folks whose interests are elsewhere, and these newsletters just get thrown into the trash without being read. We want to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted us with. Therefore, we will remove the names of those we have not heard from in the past two years. If you have not

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
_____	Huichol Humanitarian Work	_____	Lacandón Indian Project
_____	Spanish Literature	_____	Church Roofs
_____	San Lorenzo Teacher Salaries	_____	Church Construction
_____	Worthy Student Fund	_____	Use where needed most
_____	Bibles for Mexico	_____	Other _____

We encourage you to support your local church with your tithes & offerings also.

I'd like to make my gift by charge card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

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communicated with us recently, and still wish to continue receiving the MPI Newsletter, please let us know right away!

### Moving?

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!

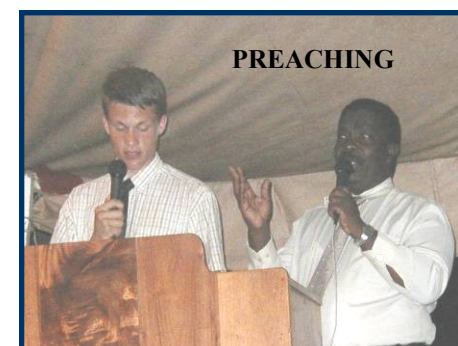


## Preaching, Painting, and Promoting Health Three Projects for Three Weeks at La Loma Luz Hospital, Belize

By Michelle Ward as told to Bev Christensen

DayStar Academy staff and students spent three weeks in Belize working at MPI sponsored La Loma Luz Hospital and the surrounding communities. Jerry and Wendy Harris, Tom and Deanna Harris, Steve and Michelle Ward, LuAnne Larson, twelve DSA students, and three children, were involved in: Evangelism, Health Expo presentations, VBS, visitation, construction at the Georgeville Church, and painting the cafeteria at La Loma Luz Hospital in Belize. The first week after arriving, the group visited door to door in preparation for the seventeen meetings that were held, yielding eleven baptisms, with others continuing Bible studies.

Ryan Reiswig, Senior at DayStar, and one of the evangelistic presenters shares the following: "Once the meetings began, we were busy day and night visiting door to door. Because of the time restriction our leader from Belize placed upon the meeting, Jon (the other presenter) and I had to revise, cut, copy, paste, add appeals to the Power Point sermons; you name it. For the last Sabbath, I had to write my own sermon on The Family, because there are a lot of couples living together unmarried who have kids. There are no sermons



PREACHING



PAINTING



PROMOTING ETERNAL HEALTH  
(BAPTISMS)

decide for Jesus because of our meetings. Talk about an adrenalin rush. It's awesome working for God."

"One young man my age decided to come to the meetings even though his friends made fun of him. He dreamed one night that as he was hanging out with his friends, a man from the Salvation Army approached him and told him he belonged down at the SDA church. Amazing, Huh? He came but would not commit.

"The day of the baptism, I begged him to come along. As we watched the baptisms, he became uneasy, I could see a struggle going on inside him. When the last baptism was over, he decided to fully surrender all to Jesus. There were tears in his eyes when he came out of the watery grave."

But the pull of the world is still strong on this soul, and Ryan asks that we keep this young man in our prayers. Our God is faithful!

The DayStar group appreciated the godly leadership and guidance they received from Collet Montejo, Assistant Administrator at La Loma Luz Hospital. The students and staff were mentored and challenged by his dedication to the Lord's work of saving souls.

prepared for this on New Beginnings DVD, so I ended up getting my own sermon together at the last minute.

"The biggest challenge for me was working within the time frame with a translator. God blessed though, and I saw a lot of people

# Guest Editorial



*Gladys & Melvin Johnson*

Dear Friends,  
MPI held its annual board meeting at Daystar Academy in Castle Valley, Utah on February 6-8. We thank Daystar for their hospitality. We had lovely accommodations and enjoyed meals with the students. It is wonderful to see the impact Daystar is having on the lives of these students. After the meeting we stayed for two more days and helped with some maintenance work.

Jack Barnes, Chairman of La Loma Luz Hospital board and Dr. Jorge Newball, hospital administrator, gave an encouraging report of what the hospital is doing to keep abreast of the changing field of health care in Belize.

One of the decisions made at the meeting was to make MPI more visible. We are a small organization and not everyone has heard of us. Plans have been laid to have a representative at the Camp Meetings in the North Pacific Union this summer. We will have a booth where you will be able to talk to someone and see pictures of the impact MPI is making in spreading the Gospel in Mexico and Belize. This will also give us an opportunity to thank our supporters personally. So watch for our booth and stop by and say 'Hello.'

*Mel, a retired dentist, and his wife Gladys, live in Montana. They enjoy traveling and sharing their love of God wherever they are.*

## MPI Personnel

- President:** *Gary & Karen Andregg* - (Hope, ID)  
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- Newsletter:** *Beverly Christensen* - (Castle Valley, UT)  
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- Board Members:** *Mel & June Anderson* - (Bozeman, MT)  
*Fred & Velma Beavon* - (Dayton, MT)  
*Harold & Norma Beavon* - (Apache Junction, AZ)  
*Bud & Susan Brookins* - (College Place, WA)  
*Eddie & Lorraine Hamilton* - (Salmon, ID)  
*Elidia Walker* - (Superior, AZ)
- MPI members:** *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](http://www.tagnet.org/mpi)

## COMING- AT MONTANA CAMPMEETING :

**MPI MEETING:**  
June 20, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM  
**COME JOIN US AT OUR BOOTH**  
JUNE 16-19, 2004  
Mt. Ellis Academy  
Bozeman, Montana

# Special Occasion & Memorials

## At Rest . . .

- Chase, Courtland**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- Crawford, Roberta**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- DeWitt, Dr. & Mrs. J.L.**  
*By Pastor & Mrs. Lynn Dewitt*
- Dugger, Lillian**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- Easthan, Chet**  
*By Lloyd Looney*
- Elsinger, John & Rosina**  
*By daughter Ruth Wiebold*
- Hanson, Carl**  
*By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke*
- Hartley, Etta**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- Jetton, James,**  
*By Marge Jetton*
- Jewitt, Val**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- Knapp, Fern**  
*By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke*  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- MacIvor, Elder Don & Ellen**  
*By Ernie & Bernice Schaak*  
*Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- McElmurry, Dr. & Mrs. N.K.**  
*By Dr. & Mrs. Clifford E. Vixie*
- Morrison, Alton**  
*By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke*
- Nofziger, Morris**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*
- Peña, Myra**  
*By Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke*
- Poole, Creel K.**  
*By Donald & Carmaine Ash;*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Locke;*  
*Frank & Myrna Wombolt*
- Rigby, Edwin and Katherine**  
*By Arline & Leo Finkbiner*
- Rood, Elder Ivan and Dorothy**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*

**Roth, Fawn**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*

**Schaeffer, Don**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*

**Schultz, Norman E.**  
*By Jean & Vernon Poole*

**Wasson, Joy**  
*By Arvel and Vernita Sage*

**Wiles, Floyd**  
*By Arvel & Vernita Sage*

## Anniversary. . .

**Clifford & Aletha Lawson (58th)**  
*By Barbara Lawson*

## Birthday . . .

**Lloyd Emery (100th )**  
*By Charles & Ruth Stafford*

*Unless otherwise specified, your Memorial and Special Occasion gifts are used to purchase literature and other evangelistic materials for use by our laymen.*

**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.**

## MEMORIAL & SPECIAL OCCASION GIVING

Given by: *Amount:* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ *Date:* \_\_\_\_\_  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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*In behalf of:* \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Anniversary ☐ Baptism ☐ Birthday ☐ At Rest ☐ \_\_\_\_\_  
*☐ Please send card to person below:*  
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*Send to: M.P.I. ♦ P.O. Box 1950 ♦ Bozeman, MT 59771*



At Work

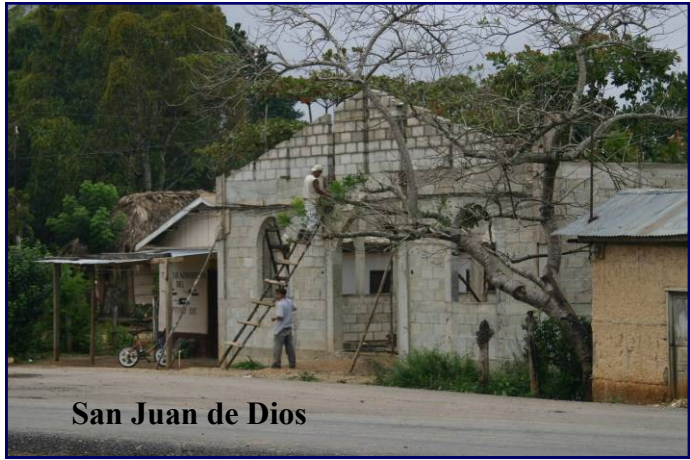
Not only did the MPI board members meet at DayStar Academy to make some very meaningful decisions (See editorial) but they spent several hours each day remodeling and painting in one of the staff homes on campus. Sabbath afternoon, members enjoyed the wonders of nature at Arches National Park.



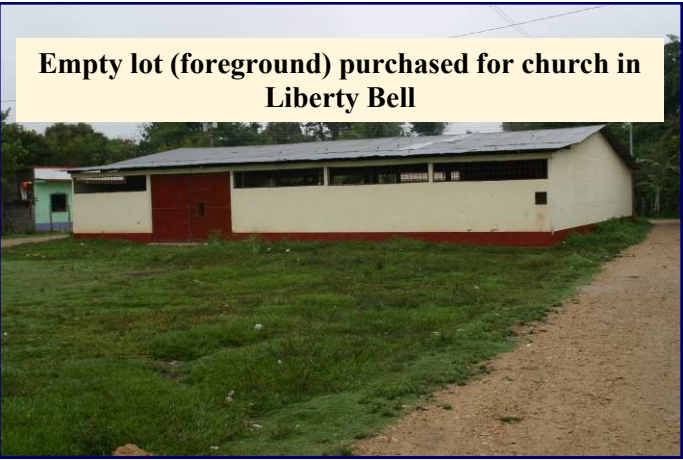
At Sabbath Rest



Guatemala Project



San Juan de Dios



Empty lot (foreground) purchased for church in Liberty Bell

Victor August, a lay worker for MPI who has been doing evangelism in Guatemala, has been very successful in creating a need for more churches. It costs about \$5000 to build a church in Guatemala. A church has been started in San Juan de Dios and property has been purchased in Liberty Bell, but members have no funds to build a church.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE FOLLOWING MISSION PROJECTS HAPPEN!! PRAY THAT PROVISION WILL BE MADE FOR EACH OF THE NEEDS LISTED BELOW:			
	TO DATE	NEED	TOTAL
MEXICAN LAY WORKERS STIPENDS	13,621	71,379	85,000
GUATEMALA CHURCHES		5,000	5,000
SAN LORENZO SCHOOL	1,170	10,830	12,000
LA LOMA LUZ HOSPITAL	1,035	28,965	30,000
LITERATURE	885	7,115	8,000
CHURCH ROOFS	75	4,925	5,000
	10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%		

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Lanita Medina and Heidi Hunt

With excitement our group of volunteers boarded Continental Airlines destined for Chiapas, Mexico. This Southern state bordering Guatemala was in a state of unrest ten years ago, but gradually things settled down, leaving the people as needy and poverty stricken as ever.

The work was multifaceted:

- Vacation Bible School in various villages with anywhere from 100-300 children in attendance at EACH session.
- Home visitation – taking clothes, toys, medicines, nurses and eye glasses to surrounding villages
- Opening medical and dental clinics in Pantepec, the town the group stayed in, so people from surrounding villages could come in to be seen on certain days.
- Building two churches and adding a second story to the third one – all to be done in ten days.

Our group of 45 had to be spread out to accomplish all this.... And that is where the adventure began! Since we arrived on a Friday, we had a little time to get used to things before work started on Sunday. When Sunday came, so did the work.

Heidi states that the first thing she helped with was the morning VBS program in a village about 45 minutes away. About 50 children came to the long, narrow, covered porch of an old building where the meetings were held. The children as well as the adults enjoyed the songs, stories, crafts, puppet show, and hand-outs.

Over 300 children attended nightly Vacation Bible School presentations with puppet shows that teach lessons to ALL languages, colorful crafts, stories and songs. You can imagine that by the end of the week we were elated and felt blessed.... And also very, very tired.



Cow Barn Church before renovations

Visitation was the next thing I did. We gathered supplies we brought with us for giving away and piled into the vehicles for the ride to the village. Once there, groups of approximately seven people went to separate homes that were on the list of needy people. We visited with the people there; attended to any medical needs as best we could (we were thankful to have nursing students from Linda Vista University helping us) gave away a toy or two, clothing, vitamins, tooth brushes, toothpaste, shoes, whatever seemed appropriate for that situation. But most importantly we prayed with the people in the house. The day I went on visitation we visited two villages. It was a very good experience for me to see how the people lived.

It was also sad to see the poverty, sickness, filth, and suffering, etc. common in the villages. Please keep these people in your prayers so they can come to know Jesus and have hope for a better life.

On a trip like this there are so many things to be done that it really doesn't matter what your skill is, you will probably rotate and do everything anyway. Lanita's 14 year old Benjamin pulled several teeth – in fact everyone wanted a turn at the dental

area! The work started around 8:30 and people would already be forming lines as early as 4:00 am. Hundreds of teeth were pulled and fillings were given. We came close to running out of supplies, but God provided until we finished. One women had 14 rotten root tips removed—and when those awful things were out of her mouth she felt so good. Many people received needed

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE



Cow Barn Church with raised roof, new walls, and new pews.

# Bus Barraged By Bandits

By Lanita Medina

Sunday morning we packed up to leave Chiapas at 5 a.m. One bus and one van held our group and luggage as off we went to San Cristobal, the ancient town that was founded soon after Christopher Columbus landed. After a three-hour curvy bus ride; we experienced seeing local indigenous people show their wares and bargaining with them for their colorful blankets, dresses, beads and purses. Another four-hour extremely curvy bus ride to Agua Azul – similar to Niagara Falls but on a lesser scale – where water cascaded down, down, and ended up in the bluest water – climaxed with a beautiful sunset. Hunger set in and we talked about eating at a little town about 45 minutes away when a sudden urgency took over. “We need to leave; it’s dark out and these parts can be dangerous.”

Everyone loaded the bus and before taking off, we decided to say a special prayer for protection on our trip that evening – as we still had three hours to go before arriving at the airport. The bus lumbered up the steep hill slowly, groaning under its heavy load, when suddenly it stopped. I was in the front seat and stood up to see why: a tree across the road with three men beside it. As quickly as I voiced, “It’s just a tree in the road,” my eyes saw the men were masked, with machete’s and guns, and I felt the two driver’s assistants fling themselves on the floor and slither between the luggage lining the aisle. I immediately realized that this was a bandit assault.

The driver grabbed the first suitcase he saw and flung it to block the door; it was the suitcase that I had been guarding carefully; it contained all our important documents and money to pay all the workers and for supplies not yet paid for. In a panic I took it from him and hurled it to the back saying, send this as far back as you can; we are be-

ing assaulted, pray like you’ve never prayed before.

In its place a HUGE water bottle was wedged in the door instead, while the bandits banged the door, shined flashlights in the windows, beat the side of the bus, and banged the door again. Our driver immediately took off his white shirt so he would not be a target— his dark skin blended into the night—and then crouched by my feet. He was in a panic, knowing he had to save his bus, yet in fear for his life. He’d experienced this before; we had

**Had a miracle been performed right in front of our eyes?**

not. He knew what could happen. We could only imagine and pray for the outcome.

In a most terrifying next 15 minutes we huddled there, praying, reciting Psalms, thinking all sorts of thoughts, yet at the same time there was never panic, hysteria. People were calm, peaceful and full of praises and prayer. We knew we could die at any minute, we prayed that our assailants would see God’s glory and angels surrounding our bus like Elijah in Bible times. We knew that God would work this situation out for the best. Yet it is still a terrifying experience – not knowing what will happen or when.

In vain they had tried to radio for help – we were in deep mountain ranges where no signals would go out. Others apparently knew better than to be driving this road at night also – though it was only 7:30 p.m. While the masked men still surrounding the bus

pounding and hitting it, yelling for us to let them in, someone suggested that our bus driver try to back up the bus. He took the risk and with his head down, tried to back the bus downhill around a sharp corner in the dark. Just then someone yelled not to go any farther – we were going over an embankment! But at that point, no one was brave enough to go outside to see how steep it was – besides, we had a few moments of silence from our intruders but we didn’t know if they left.

Had a miracle been performed right in front of our eyes? Indeed! We looked up and the tree had been rolled off the road, and the men weren’t there. Were they hiding in the dense jungle, waiting for us to come out? It seemed like an eternity before we could decide what to do. Should we get out and risk an attack, or stay in the bus and risk going over the embankment and down the steep cliff.

Suddenly, lights appeared! Car lights! It was the chief police with three buddies from the little town – headed up the hill to find more tequila. “HELP!” we yelled. “We’ve been assaulted! Please help!” What a relief when they stopped to help! We didn’t mind too much that they were a bit drunk – they went and got help, (at that point we weren’t sure if we could trust those men- yet we also felt that God had His hand on us and we needed to act...) and soon they brought the police from a town farther out. By 2:00 a.m. a tow truck had our bus back on the road – nearly seven hours after it all started.

Now our goal was to get to the airport – still another three hours away. Our bus driver must have been in the same hurry as we—he went hurtling down that range of mountains at break-neck speed. I dared to open my eyes at times then quickly clamped them shut when I saw those curves coming up at such high speed. I felt sure that God



**BANDITS FROM PAGE 4**  
had saved us back there and knew that He’d save us again— I just didn’t feel like watching those looming curves and getting sick!

At different times we spoke with the bus drivers about this experience, encouraging them to place their trust in Jesus, because they had seen Him work in our lives through that experience that night.

That morning, as I pulled out my passport at the airport, I found a Bible verse that I had copied to have with me on this trip. *Philippians 4:6,7: Don’t fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It’s wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.* (The Message). Then the song **He’s Able To Carry Me Through** as on this same piece of paper.

Our plane was on its way home, and we were ready to go home. .... But this trip would not soon be forgotten. My children’s lives are stronger for it, and so is ours. Praise God!

**ABOVE: Bus at the edge of the precipice, being pushed back onto the road.**



**Caring relief for cavities**

# Conclusions

CHIAPAS FROM PAGE 3

medicine and many others medical treatment. The people came from far distances and stood in line for hours.

We took eye glasses to the different villages as we visited them. Everyone wanted a pair of glasses! It’s hard to screen people for glasses when they don’t know how to read, so we tried to ask if they could see the outline of the mountains clearer. Sometimes our screening locations were dark little huts – making it hard to see anything!

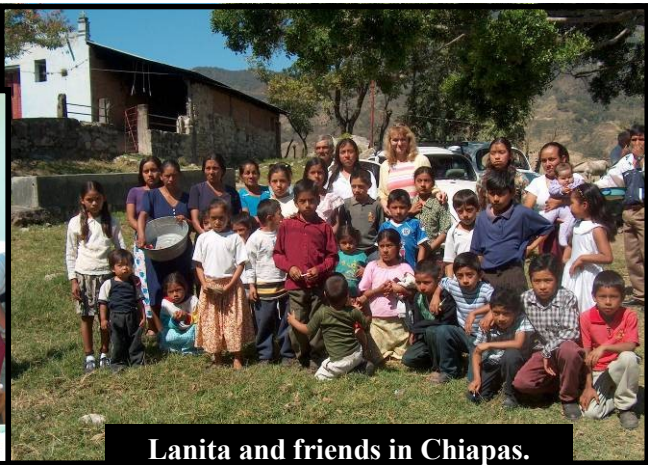
One woman came in to see which ones would work for her. “How about these?” “Oh – they make me so dizzy!” “These make me feel nauseated!” “This pair makes me see double!” We went to pair after pair, and nothing seemed to work for her. Finally I brought out this beautiful blue-rimmed pair, nice and clean looking and put them on her. “OH! She exclaimed. I can see now! Oh THIS is the pair I need! I can see so clearly! Oh thank-you, thank-you!” And off she trotted down the dirt path, happy as could be. Five minutes later she came back. “Um... these glasses I just got..... they have no lenses!”

There were three construction sites. One was the former cow barn from an ancient hacienda where people had been meeting for church and decided to convert it into a church building. Within two days the walls were up, windows in, and by the fifth day most of the structure was finished.

Another site was putting a roof on a church. The last site was nothing but a weed patch the first day, and by Tuesday the four walls were up. On Friday the last piece of roofing was put up and the church was completed for their first Sabbath meeting. Another crew spent their days making pews for this new church. They were ready right in time for worship.

Lanita shares: Oh the experience of giving a little old man a stuffed animal and watching his face light up! Of giving adults and children \$2 plastic shoes as if was the greatest gift they had ever received; observing a ten-pack of vitamins being held in their hands reverently. Noticing their big toothless smiles and laughter when they were handed a colorful Christmas card. It’s truly priceless. Anyone up for next year’s mission trip?

Heidi concludes, Serving God is truly the best thing to do, and a blessing well worth it. The safest place to be is serving God where God wants you, because He had promised to take care of you. ‘Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you, always even unto the end of the world.’ Matt. 28:19,20 God has spoken; let’s obey!



**Lanita and friends in Chiapas.**