



Bentonville

CHURCH of CHRIST

Walk with Me

MISSION EMPHASIS SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 5, 2017



MES Goal
for 2018 is
\$261,640

Bentonville

CHURCH of CHRIST

MISSION EMPHASIS SUNDAY 2017

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CARIBBEAN & CENTRAL AMERICA

- 7 **Haiti - 2018 & Beyond**
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- 11 **Roberto & Betty Zepeda**, Latin American Bible Institute (ILEB), Toluca, Mexico
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SOUTH AMERICA

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FROM THE SHEPHERDS

The Lord has always invited His people to walk with Him. Enoch walked faithfully with God and was rewarded. Noah also walked with God and was saved from the flood. After Jesus' death, He walked alongside two of His confused followers to explain the Scriptures to them. Jesus spent His life walking with people, healing them, and teaching them truth.

Jesus still says, **Walk with me.**

He still heals and teaches truth, and we have so many opportunities to walk with Him in our own communities and throughout the rest of the world. As you explore the missions described in this booklet, we'd like you to consider how you can be personally involved. Would you consider sharing your walk with the Lord by walking beside others who are seeking Him? There are many ways to do that, whether you share your funds or your time: When you contribute to our mission program, you are helping to support full-time missionaries and preachers, outreach programs and new church plants.

Your generous support enables us to be present in the lives of people who desperately need to begin their own personal walk with the Lord. Your donation can also help those who have the desire to serve God in the mission field but lack the ability to completely fund their trip.

If you have time and an awakening desire to explore a new way to serve, we encourage you to consider being personally involved in mission work. Whether you travel locally, nationally or internationally, we are confident that your experience would help you to deepen your relationship with God and those you serve.

Walk with me, as together we walk with Jesus.

For the Shepherds,
Dennis Cherry





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MEXICO

- 1 Reyes & Chanita Medina, Colonia 89, Ensenada
- 2 Daniel & Melinda Martinez, Colonia 89, Ensenada
- 3 Liberato & Elodia Ovalle, Baja Bible Inst., Ensenada
- 4 Roberto & Betty Zepeda, ILEB, Toluca
- 5 Raul & Kim Solis, ILEB, Toluca
- 6 Arturo & Monica Aguilar, ILEB, Cholula
- 7 Jorge & Latisha Seranno, Nueva Esperanza, Oaxaca

HAITI

- 8 Haiti - 2018 & Beyond, Haiti

ARGENTINA

- 9 Gabriel & Naibelis Damalis, Caballito Church of Christ, Buenos Aires



NIGERIA

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RWANDA

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UKRAINE

12 Alex & Helen Rodichev, Soborna Church of Christ, Dnipro





BIODUN OWOLABI

Director and President, West Nigeria Christian College & School of Biblical Studies (WNCC)

Abeokuta, Nigeria

I live and work within the campus of the College. I begin each day with a personal devotion then have my family join in for our family devotion. Our routine changes slightly on weekends due to my wife's job. She works Monday through Friday in Ibadan two hours away. On weekends we welcome the rest of our family who are available to join in our devotions. Our boys; Allen (21), Michael (17) and Aaron (16), are in school most of the time. Our only daughter, Alice (23), travels to Lagos on weekends to attend classes for her professional examination in Accounting.

I leave home for the office at 7:25am for our daily faculty devotion/meeting at 7:30am. We pray, review the previous day's work and prospects of the new day. Classes are scheduled between 8am to 1pm. 11am is chapel time. Everyone on campus is expected to attend for 30 minutes - 11-11.30 am, with 30 minutes break before the next class at noon. In addition to my administrative responsibilities, I teach at least two classes for four hours every week.

The rest of my day is used to attend to administrative and supervisory responsibilities; attending meetings, supervising campus works, attending to visitors, preparing for my classes,

attending to needs of my protégés/counselees, preparing lessons for lectureships, workshops, seminars and retreats to honor invitations from congregations and sister institutions.

I also serve on the board of trustees of African Christian College, Swaziland, Southern Africa. I just returned from Swaziland for ACC's 50th anniversary and the board meeting. Fridays are lecture-free days for the campus community to attend to venture businesses like farming, fish pond, poultry and others to boost the college's internally generated revenue.

My evening is used to reach out to my wife in Ibadan and children in school. Saturday's are spent with family or attending social or church events. I love to treat my family to local delicacies when possible and personally prepare their delights. Most Sunday's we worship on campus except when I honor an invite from other congregations.

I struggle with the need to create more time to attend to family matters. This is hindered by living and working on campus, which makes me virtually on call 24/7.

✉ abiodunowolabi@yahoo.co.uk

f facebook.com/biodun.owolabi.7



MARTY & LOUISE KOONCE

Africa Transformation Network (ATN)

Kigali, Rwanda

The Koonce Family serves in Rwanda, Africa and are celebrating our twentieth year in the field. One thing we have learned after twenty years is that there is no such thing as a typical day. For Louise, who teaches art, photography, and media design at the international school our sons have attended, it is more “normal” than for Marty. For Marty, who uses sport development to share the gospel, it is rare to have two days alike. We work with Africa Transformation Network and our goal is clearly seen in our vision statement: Kingdom Communities of Obedient Disciples Transforming and Redeeming Rwanda.

ATN has five areas of ministry and they are: Xtra Miles Vocational School and Services; Peace House Ministries which serves to redeem the lives of street kids and prostitutes; Community Development which works in farming and well drilling; Sport Development; and Education and Leadership Development. In Sport Development, Marty uses Taekwondo to help Rwandans address their issues of vulnerability and to assist them to build healthy, trusting communities. He started the sport for Rwanda nine years ago and now thousands are participating as civilians as well as the military and police. The sport grows annually at more than seventy percent and Bible study and prayer are part of the natural DNA within all the clubs.

All the work done in Rwanda has the focus of making disciples of Jesus that make other disciples. We are thrilled to share that there are now too many disciple groups to count! Yes, you read that correctly. Until this year we were doing an annual census, but now the growth has been too rapid and we have lost count. This is just what we have been working and praying for. At our last census, in 2016, there were more than 500 groups with 400 in progress and there had been more than 7,000 baptized. There was a great statistic we picked up this year at our leadership meeting. Now there are groups that are thirteen generations deep. Yes, that is a church that has planted a church, that has planted a church and so on. As well, there is great evidence that the movement is now spilling over into Congo, Burundi, Tanzania, and Uganda. This is what it is all about and this is why we ask you to continue praying and supporting our work with African Transformation Network.

We ask you to keep up with our work by subscribing to our newsletter, following us on social media and subscribing to Marty’s blog.

✉ kooncefamly@audienceofone.cc

📖 sportingfaith.blog

📘 facebook.com/marty.koonce.9



THE CITY OF CHILDREN

Orphan home


Ensenada, Mexico

One of our longest supported mission works is the City of Children in Ensenada, Mexico. In 1999 we sent our first group of teens and adults to work at the home and do a VBS program. That first group of 12 continued to grow in number over the years to reach over 50.

Our efforts at the home eventually led to our working outside the orphanage with churches being planted in Baja. This introduction to mission work in Baja led Bentonville to partner with another congregation to start our work in Colonia 89.

Although we currently are not sending teams to work at the home, we continue to financially support the home and its ongoing work to minister to the abandoned and orphaned children of Baja. The main objective of the City of Children home has always been to teach those who have been orphaned and abandoned the word of God. Daily Bible classes are taught by staff members as well as teaching done by dorm parents in their respective dorms.

The goal is to help young adults to be grounded in the word of God by the time they depart the home, and then provide a network of churches in Baja where they can attend.

 cityofchildren.com

HAITI - 2018 & BEYOND

North/Central Haiti

Our mission in Haiti is often dependent on natural disasters that may have affected the lives of the people there. This year is no different. While hurricane Irma did not deliver a direct blow to the island, hurricane force winds in the north destroyed many of the crops.

One of the areas we focus our medical mission each year is Deyemon, an isolated village in the high mountains in north-central Haiti, has been a location for our medical mission trips each year. This is the birth village of Wilguens, who many of you met when he visited this past year. The crops grown by the people of the village were mostly destroyed by the winds, so during our medical mission there, we will also be distributing food supplies. Another area of focus is in Bonnette, a small town near Port-au-Prince. We base our operations at an encampment there and deliver health care to members of the local church and their friends. From there we travel to Mirebalais, a community and church about 60 miles north, to hold clinics or to the surrounding children's homes to visit and offer medical assistance.

A thriving Church of Christ is located at Bonnette with a Christian school for over 300 children ranging from pre-kindergarten to the 5th grade. We are beginning support for the teaching effort of that school this year.

So, while our Haiti mission activities vary each year, God continues to lead us to intervene in the suffering of his people with the support of the Christians at Bentonville.





REYES & CHANITA MEDINA

Preacher, Spiritual Leader, Colonia 89 Church of Christ
Ensenada, Mexico

We thank God for the opportunity to walk with the Bentonville Church of Christ in Colonia 89 for the past 11 years. We remember meeting in Ivan's house, renting our second meeting place, then buying the house on the hill (where we currently live) to meet in. Together, we bought land and built a beautiful building for the church. We have many happy memories, and some sad, but the great love of the Lord has steadfastly helped us to continue the work here through it all. The planting of a second congregation hasn't worked out the way we hoped, but we have many things that are cause for celebration and joy. Some of our most exciting times have been hosting area-wide church events with more than 600 people worshipping, fellowshiping, and learning together on our property. What a wonderful experience! We feel very blessed to have had the Bentonville mission team here to encourage us by working with us, side by side, for eleven summers. We also appreciate the team that comes down every Christmas to buy shoes, school supplies, and presents for our children.

If you know our family, you have watched our three children, David, Abby, and Anna grow from young teens to college graduates, and you have seen our precious grandson, Pablo, grow

from a newborn to an energetic three-year-old. With all of us under one roof, you can imagine our daily activities. We enjoy a lot of meals, run a lot of errands, take and teach a lot of classes, and do a lot of work. It keeps us busy, but we are thankful to be together and healthy. We are blessed to be able to work with our teammates, Daniel and Melinda, and we especially enjoy meeting with them every Tuesday for breakfast and a staff meeting. Together, we plan classes and services for each Sunday. We also plan Bible classes for Wednesday evening, and teach classes to unbelievers regularly. Every month, we host a meeting for the entire church. Monday through Friday, Daniel and I take turns keeping the church building open to the public. One of the exciting new things we are doing is distributing a bimonthly study guide that we study from together on Sundays.

We are encouraging our members to teach the material to someone they know outside the church, and are hopeful that God's message will continue to reach more people through our efforts.

✉ reyes_molina67@yahoo.com.mx

📘 facebook.com/reyes.molinahigueron



DANIEL & MELINDA MARTINEZ

Associate Minister, Colonia 89 Church of Christ

Ensenada, Mexico

It is by the grace of God that I am a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ with my family that I love with all my heart. Our day starts with the pleasant aroma of Melinda's good cooking and the sound of praise music in the background, as she rises early and makes breakfast for our three children.

After breakfast, we get the kids dressed in their uniforms, make lunches, and take them to school. I enjoy the valuable time in the car with them as we sing together, and I remind them that all they learn will help them serve God.

After dropping them off at school, my daily activities are varied. Sometimes, I spend quality time with my wife, helping her however she needs. Other days, I go to the church office to prepare for classes or visit and work with some of our men, which helps me to better understand and serve them.

Our evening activities vary. After our kids return from basketball practice, we eat dinner together and spend time on homework or family activities before we have a devotional time just before bed. After that Melinda and I spend the rest of the evening together. Sometimes we

do research and study for the classes we are preparing or sometimes we watch television. On Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays and some Saturdays, we attend church meetings. We look at Saturday as a day of rest; sometimes we go biking, play basketball, go to the beach or watch movies at home.

Once a week, we try to get together for breakfast with Reyes and Chanita to assess the physical and spiritual needs of the church. We pray for our church family and delegate responsibilities to meet their needs. I do my best to be an example to our church brothers, pray for them, teach them, and be available when they need advice or help.

I also want to make sure they understand that it is up to them to fully commit to loving and obeying God and loving and serving their neighbor. I am hopeful and prayerful that we all become better at this each day.

✉ danyymely@gmail.com

📘 facebook.com/daniel.martinezsalar.50



LIBERATO & ELODIA OVALLE

Director, The Bible Institute Of Baja California, located on the campus of City of Children

Ensenada, Mexico

Most of our days start at 6 am with prayer and breakfast, followed by a trip to the Baja Bible Institute classroom located on the City of Children campus. I teach Bible classes there every morning.

One of the highlights of our day is picking up our grandchildren from school and preparing and having lunch with them and our daughter, Damaris. They are living with us while Damaris, widowed some years ago, works toward her Masters and teaches in the afternoon.

After lunch I prepare classes, review student work, and study for classes. The rest of our week is filled with planning lessons, hosting devotionals for students, and study time. Elodia has a meeting on Mondays with four women who study in the BBI, and on Wednesday evening, she teaches a class for them.

The church where we are members is starting a new work 65 kilometers from Ensenada. They have four teams of men who take turns preaching each Sunday, and I oversee them as

they prepare the lessons that are taught. I also teach Sunday Bible classes in that church to help them prepare to establish elders and deacons. I enjoy my work and meeting the needs of people around me and am continuing to learn and grow.

One area in which I would like to improve would be learning how to better organize and manage my time. Many diverse ministry opportunities come our way, but one that we have really enjoyed is the chance to meet once or twice a week with a couple who are about 80 years old. They are members of the church who live alone and do not have children or any relatives living in Ensenada. We pray with them and play table games, and always end our time together feeling encouraged.

✉ maq_501@yahoo.com

📘 facebook.com/liberato.ovallepalomares



ROBERTO & BETTY ZEPEDA

Administrative and Financial Directors of the Latin American Bible Institute (ILEB)

Toluca, Mexico

My name is Roberto Zepeda. My wife Bety and I have been members of the church of Christ in Toluca since 1992. John tells the story of my conversion. He says I made loops around the house on my car when he went to my house to give us the studies. The reality is that we began attending the church in March of 1992 and were baptized on May 30th of 1992, TWO months after we met him.

I love to hear John's story because it reminds me of how I was before I was baptized. I can't believe it's been 25 years! I'm now the dean on the ILEB, as such I struggle every day. We use technology for our classes. We have over 70 students in Toluca - 10 in the classroom, 25 through video conference on real time and 37 online- and the interest of the brotherhood that want to study grows every day. We also help the 15 branches of ILEB in Mexico and the two in Venezuela.

My wife works with me on the ILEB supervising the women's program alongside Kimberly. We serve the church in many of their different ministries while overseeing a life group of 45 people that we share Sunday school.

In our personal life, there are great things happening. My eldest daughter, Joselyn, and her husband Adam are in their final year of studies at Sunset and are praying to know where the Lord wants to take them. We have a beautiful grandson, Jonathan, who is two and one half. My youngest, Jaret is also studying at Sunset and wants to work in South Africa and is in a serious relationship with his girlfriend Shimwe. Alin, the middle child, is a Chef and works for a cruise line along with her fiancée Yann. They are making wedding plans and want to reside in Mexico to start a business here, God willing.

We want God to work through us to help Yann come to know Him and to change his life. So, our life is pretty busy. We ask for prayers so God is glorified in each of our lives.

✉ robizepeda@hotmail.com

✉ betyloluca@hotmail.com

📘 facebook.com/roberto.zepeda.12



RAUL & KIM SOLIS

Directors of the Distance Learning Program, ILEB
Toluca, Mexico

Who is the Solis Family? Good question.

Well, it all started back in 1992 when Kim Kershaw from Portland, Oregon and Raul Solis from Puebla, Mexico met at a church picnic in Toluca. We were married in 1994 and the adventure began. All marriages have their special situations and we entered ours fully aware that the blending of two cultures and languages would not be easy. However, with Christ as priority, we have enjoyed the blending and find that it is fun to pick and choose from both traditions to form our own. We have three children (Diego, Isaac, and Angie) who have been raised with one foot in the US and one in Mexico and are fully bilingual.

We have also been immensely blessed to have been able to work full time with the church here in Toluca since December of 1993. Raul is an avid fisherman and evangelist, with a passion for teaching the lost. When he is not having individual Bible studies, he spends his time teaching class in the Bible Institute and preaching about once a month in Toluca or San Pedro Zictepec.

Kim works as the online administrator for the Institute and spends her mornings working on the online learning platform that ILEB uses to reach students as far away as Nevada and

Ecuador. She also teaches women's classes in the Institute and is active in women's ministry with the church.

Right now, the women are preparing for the second National Women's Conference being hosted in Toluca where Kim will be one of the keynote speakers. She's also an aspiring author having just won a writing contest this past August. The adventure of a bicultural marriage has been a good one, but having roots in two countries has its pros and cons. Now that we are entering a new phase of our lives, the empty-nest syndrome, two of our kids have been drawn north. Diego, the oldest, is working in Springdale, Arkansas and Isaac, the middle son, is a sophomore in college at Portland State University in Oregon. Angie, our youngest is still at home and is a junior in high school, but she is contemplating a study abroad program in Germany for next semester!

Either way, with a house half-full or half-empty, we are honored to have been blessed by God with such a wonderful family.

✉ rksolis@hotmail.com

📘 facebook.com/kim.kershawsolis



ARTURO AGUILAR & MONICA BAROSA

ILEB Graduates and Church Planters

Cholula, Mexico

Our day begins early because of our activities. We begin at 7 AM for both school and work. I work at an automotive factory that is about 25 minutes from my home. When I come home from work, I like to spend time with my family. We have dinner together and share how our day has gone.

On weekends we like to go to the movies and enjoy eating dinner out. I spend most of my evening preparing for my sermon and Sunday classes. My wife and daughter are in charge of Sunday school and the newspaper. My son helps me with communion and sometimes with Sunday school and the children.

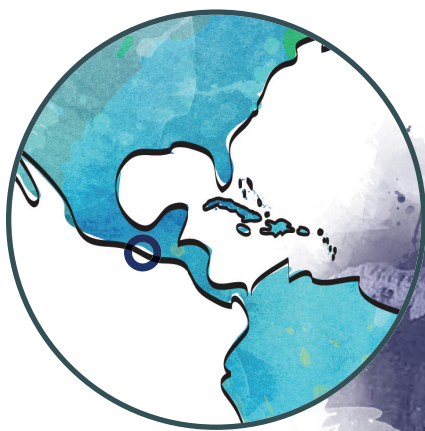
Working at Cholula was hard at first, but now we have a new family that is happy to be at church every Sunday. We share our happiness and worries and little by little the barriers are falling down.

One of our challenges is we are working without a team and that can sometimes be very stressful. We are inviting brothers and students from other churches and the Bible institute to come and visit and help with classes and sermons. Sometimes I would like to have a less demanding job.

It is hard to keep the balance between ministry and my responsibility to provide what my family needs. I think I need to learn to let go of things and to really put all my problems and worries in God's hands. Thank you for your encouragement and support.

✉ arturosan@gmail.com

f facebook.com/arturo.aguilar.1690



JORGE AND LATISHA SERRANO

Preacher at the Nueva Esperanza Church of Christ

Oaxaca, Mexico

Other than our normal church activities, a large bulk of our time is spent ministering in Casa Compasiva, a Christian birth center with the focus of sharing Christ to families seeking care.

Latisha began as a doula (birth & postpartum companion) at the birth center when it opened in 2011. She was so touched by the work that she decided to study midwifery that next year. This April she concluded those studies where she dedicated the majority of her free time. Since Violet was born during this time, I spent most mornings taking care of the baby.

In the afternoons I was able to dedicate time to visitation or meeting someone for coffee. This has been a journey for all and I am glad I was able to support her through the long hours of study and nights going to help with births.

At CC (Casa Compasiva) I began just as lending a hand once in awhile such as to go pay a bill or to help find a mechanic for the center's van, simple chores. I was then invited periodically to give devotionals at their weekly pre-natal class and to counsel struggling families.

I am now part of the board of directors and am currently the President of the Civil Association which basically means I sign papers. Now that Latisha's studies are done we will be able to

spend more time getting to know the families of Casa Compasiva and Lord willing establish meaningful relationships with them and see them entering our church family. Even the kids have invested time in Casa Compasiva although their preferred activity is rock climbing. Aaron was often asked to make a shopping run to SAM's with the center's administrator. Emily is now homeschooling and as part of her science requirement she is studying the CC doula course. Last Monday she attended her first birth! Aaron is now in Levelland, Texas attending South Plains College and dealing with culture shock of life in the USA.

Because the bulk of our ministry is in town, we have prayerfully come to the conclusion that we need to move. My parents have a tiny 3 bedroom apartment where we will be within walking distance to the church building and a short drive to the birth center (under 15 min).

This will be a huge change for us, but we are excited to be more on-hand for the brethren and for the center.

✉ cocotish@hotmail.com

📘 facebook.com/latisha.eppardserrano



GABRIEL & NAIBELIS DAMALIS

Preacher, Spiritual Leader, Caballito Church of Christ

Buenos Aires, Argentina

One of our newest mission endeavors is our work with Gabriel and Naibelis Damalis. We were introduced to them by Jim Caylor two years ago. Bentonville Church is the sole supporter for this young couple outside of their family.

They started their work in Venezuela and have now moved to Argentina. This young couple is on fire for the Lord.

They have faced all kinds of challenges from physical and Spiritual persecution to health issues. All of which they turn to the Lord for protection and guidance to overcome the physical and Spiritual persecution they were facing daily.

At this time, Bentonville is their sole supporter, except for their family. Jim Caylor at first was our main contact. We now have regularly monthly updates via Skype and by newsletter. They absolutely need our support and encouragement. Gabriel speaks very good English and is always willing to converse with us. Naibelis speaks very little English but her gift is in teaching ladies classes and doing seminars.

Both are presently working with the Caballito Church of Christ near Buenos Aires, Argentina.

✉ gdamalis30@gmail.com

📘 facebook.com/gdamalis0330



ALEX & HELEN RODICHEV

Preacher, Soborna Church of Christ

Dnipro, Ukraine

The Bentonville church of Christ started its work in Dnepropetrovsk (now Dnipro) in 1991, shortly after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The church of Christ was started under a post-Soviet Union mentality, which since then has evolved into a more European mentality. Christians from Bentonville have walked with the Ukrainian brothers and sisters throughout the transition. First generation Ukrainian Christians were raised under cold war propaganda, and current Christians still suffer the effects of revolution and war.

The church is our home. We live, sleep, and worship there. We eat there, sometimes alone, often with other Christians. We teach Bible and English, discuss issues and events, spend time with kids, meet refugees, and serve orphans and widows. The church building has become a hub of service and unity for the churches in Ukraine and for the people of Dnipro.

We spend a lot of our time serving others and due to the limited space, we have little time

alone. We struggle to keep our priorities for our personal lives and our service in balance.

Often there is just too much that needs to be done. The war and the poor economic situation during the current crisis make life difficult. So being together, talking, eating together, and being able to provide shelter for someone in need is a very important part of our ministry now.

The mission trip from Bentonville scheduled for April 2017 was cancelled due to unforeseeable circumstances.. However, the ladies of the congregation went ahead with the planned ladies program that was a great success.

With the help of the Bentonville congregation, we are building a new worship center on the property. Soon, and for the first time, we will be able to seat over 50 people in the same room for worship and Bible study.

✉ alexandr.rodichev@gmail.com

f www.facebook.com/alexjnapster

MEMBER'S MISSION FUND (MMF)

MMF allows members to have added resources to supplement their travel expenses to and from a foreign mission field.

Over the past five years, we have sent approximately ten percent of our active body into a foreign field per year. Over the same time period, the Bentonville mission committee has made \$100,000 available to assist these mission works.

Not everyone who travels on foreign mission from Bentonville uses this fund. It is available to members who have a desire to experience mission work but lack the funds to afford the travel. MMF is available through the member's mission committee. A simple form is required to be filled out. This form can be found on the mission's web site or gotten from the Church office.

MEMBER MISSION TRIPS (MMT)

These are mission trips members of Bentonville Church of Christ take each year.

1. Colonia 89, Ensenada, Mexico

Last week of July
Teach VBS to children, classes to adults

2. Dnipro, Ukraine

Spring 2018, late March/early April
Teach adult and children's classes

3. Men's Construction Trip, Haiti

Build or remodel to serve those in need
Late January/Early February

4. Port au Prince, Haiti

Medical, service and building projects
Late January/Early February

5. West Nigeria Christian College, Abeokuta, Nigeria

Teach Bible classes to adults
First week of August

COLONIA 89, SUMMER FAMILY MISSION TRIP, ENSENADA, MEXICO

Teens and families serve the Mexican church members and community as needed

Every summer, usually the last week of July, teens and adults travel to serve the members and visitors at the Colonia 89 church of Christ which we helped plant in 2005.

Every year since 2006, we have gone to serve, doing things like medical missions, evangelism, construction, benevolence work, service projects, and teaching. As the church has grown in maturity over the last ten years, our efforts have changed. It has been fascinating for Bentonville members to experience the church's growth. We started out helping Colonia 89 to evangelize their families, friends, and neighbors. As the church has matured, our work has changed. They went through an involvement phase, so we taught children and adults on the importance of getting involved in their church. Then they went through a leadership and spiritual maturity phase, so we taught classes to help with those needs.

Like all adolescent churches, the "89" church has experienced leadership and membership difficulties. Last year, they were trying to start a new congregation called Nueva 89, just three miles from their current location. It didn't go well, so they are starting the process over, and trying to learn from their mistakes. Our job this year was encouragement. We picked up trash, painted over graffiti, and planted young trees to encourage our Mexican brethren and to remind them that God is the God of new beginnings. Each year is filled with new challenges and joy, and this is an incredible trip if you can go!

TRIP DETAILS

Length of trip: One week

Dates: Usually last week of July

Cost: Usually \$850, though it may vary

Transportation: Fly from Tulsa to San Diego, bus to Ensenada

Lodging: One star hotel (maybe), Ensenada

Contact John or Todd for more information:

jdyas@bentonvillechurch.com

tmiller@bentonvillechurch.com

UKRAINE MISSION TRIP, DNIPRO, UKRAINE

Supporting the Soborna Church outreach

Bentonville has established good, strong relationships with Christians in Ukraine. We worked many years with the Kirova church providing spiritual teaching and basketball camps. Now, Bentonville helps the second generation of Christians in Dnipro at the new Soborna congregation, started in 2015.

For the past three years Ukraine has been challenged by the war in eastern Ukraine. The Soborna church of Christ has provided comfort and assistance to persons displaced by the fighting in the east. They have also started a school for local children and teens in addition to caring for widows and orphans. They host a summer camp to encourage Christians from around their war-torn country. They are currently building a new worship center to house their growing congregation. With assistance from Steve and Michelle Carter, Kate Caton, and Dennis and Kathy Cherry, this congregation is taking important steps toward maturity and growth. Over the past four years, the team from Bentonville along with Greg Ziegler and Sandy Meaux have presented lessons in leadership, service, parenting, marriage, education, and spiritual growth.

Missionaries have been invited to interact with students in local schools. They will also have the opportunity to interact with and teach youth and adults in the Soborna church, to visit shut-ins and orphans and to worship with Christians in Ukraine.

TRIP DETAILS

Length of trip: Two weeks

Dates: Spring 2018, late March/early April

Cost: \$2,600-\$3,000, a large portion is covered by the MES budget

Transportation: Fly from XNA to Chicago to Vienna to Dnipro; return trip requires an overnight stay in Vienna

Lodging: Hotel Menora or City MOST apartments

Contact Kathy Caton for more information:

churchlady3.5@cox.net

MEN'S MISSION TRIP - INTERNATIONAL BUILDING TEAM, MEXICO AND HAITI

Service through construction

Since 2009, the men's mission crew has taken several trips to Colonia 89 and Haiti to build houses and churches and serve our brethren through construction. Last year, several men from our congregation went to Haiti to build a medical/dental/optical clinic.

The structure included an apartment with a bedroom and kitchen for a future full-time doctor to live in while caring for the residents of the local community.

Some from our group were also able to visit the family living in the house our church built three years ago. We were encouraged by this Christian family, but noticed that their sewing machine was broken. We were able to get them a new sewing machine that helps them earn money for their family.

Next year, we are potentially planning two men's trips. One trip will be to Haiti, and the other will be to Toluca, Mexico to help build a church building for some families that are currently worshiping in their homes.

When we travel to Haiti or Mexico, we work alongside the members of that congregation. We pray with them, eat lunch with them and attend church services with them. By the end of the week, we have developed friendship with our Christian brothers and sisters that is truly priceless.

TRIP DETAILS

Length of trip: Typically 6-8 days

Dates: Late January to early February

Cost: Usually \$800-\$1,000

Transportation: Fly from either XNA or Tulsa to Haiti or Mexico

Lodging: Ranges from a cot with mosquito netting to bed in shared room in guest house, Cold water showers sometimes, Occasionally we stay in a hotel

Contact Jim Johnson or Bill Brunkhardt for more information:

jjohnsonfiremedic@yahoo.com

bbrunk55@gmail.com

HAITI MEDICAL MISSION TRIP, PORT AU PRINCE & GANTHIER, HAITI

Bringing medical care and the love of God to the poverty-stricken population of Haiti

This two-week mission effort was adopted by the Bentonville Church of Christ in 2014, allowing for food and Bible distribution and other works, and allowing more church members to experience the work in Haiti.

During the first week, we will partner with the Church of Christ from Arvada, CO. and conduct a medical and optometry clinic in the remote mountain village of Deymon and surrounding villages. Deymon is the home of Wilguens Estavien, who visited with us last spring.

These Haitians have no access to medical care other than our visit to their village. The second week, we will spend two days conducting a medical clinic in Bonnette, where the Church of Christ in Florence, Alabama has built a housing compound, a church building, and an accompanying Christian school for over 300 children. The next two days we will conduct clinics at two orphanages in the area. The last day, we will provide the children at the school in Bonnette with children's Bible story books in their native Haitian Kreyol language and give them their annual anti-worm medication.

We encourage and communicate weekly with many who have acted as our translators over the years. They are all fine Christian men who have servant hearts for their people. They struggle with poverty and lack of jobs, and feeding and educating their families, but are involved in teaching English, computer skills, and church leadership.

TRIP DETAILS

Length of trip: 1 or 2 weeks

Dates: Usually late January to early February

Cost: Air Fare to Haiti (usually \$700-800+) plus extra expenses that may vary.

Transportation: Fly from XNA or Tulsa to Port-au-Prince, then trucks/SUVs to various locations

Lodging: Ranges from a cot to bed in shared room in guest house, Hotel stay if available, Cold water showers only

Contact Bill Tate for more information:

blpgtate@msn.com

WEST NIGERIA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (WNCC) TRIP, ABEOKUTA, NIGERIA

Encouraging and teaching students and professors at the college and visiting the surrounding churches

Each summer, around the first week of August, Jay Beckloff travels to work at the West Nigeria Christian College, which he helped found many years ago. At times, he has been able to take a small group of Bentonville members with him. While there, they teach and encourage students and teachers at the college.

This trip coincides with the annual lectureship the college hosts for students, former students, preachers, and church members from all over the western part of Nigeria, and visitors are encouraged to participate.

Trip members are often asked to teach a class or a session to the students at the college. While there, you can visit neighboring churches started by graduates of the college. It is a joy to experience their worship services, and also greatly encourages our Nigerian brethren to have us there.

It is getting very difficult for Jay to make this trip, but he is confident that another person or team would continue to make a positive impact at WNCC. He would love to see someone else fall in love with this work and continue building on the legacy that he and Ileta started.

TRIP DETAILS

Length of trip: 2-3 weeks

Dates: Usually the first week in August

Cost: Approximately \$2,500 flight

Transportation: Direct flight is 17 hours- longer if through Europe, Trip ends in Lagos, Nigeria.

Lodging: Dorm type accommodations on campus of WNCC

Food: Some is supplied, some is taken

Members who have gone in past: Beckloffs, Bates, Andy McCown, and Josh Bundy

Contact Jay Beckloff for more information:

jbeckloff@sbcglobal.net



GARY HUTCHESON MEMORIAL FUND (GHMF)



GHMF

The GHMF is a scholarship available to a Bentonville Church member who is interested in exploring a mission work for an extended amount of time. This fund is intended for a person or family to travel to a foreign location with the purpose of evaluation and preparation for a new mission work. These funds are only for the evaluation period of the mission. The value of this fund is up to \$25,000. Bentonville church members can apply for this scholarship through the mission committee.

The Church office can assist with any request or questions. Gary Hutcheson was a member for many years at Bentonville. He had a passion for missions in Nigeria and Ukraine. He made many trips to Ukraine to teach, train and encourage the church there. He left with us his memory and his example of enthusiasm for foreign mission works and service to people who desire to know God. He is missed, but we honor his memory with this memorial that aims to continue his work.

EASTERN EUROPEAN MISSIONS (EEM)



EEM

Eastern European Mission
The Bible. We Want Everyone To Get It.

EEM provides thousands of Bibles in places where access to God's written word is not readily available or affordable. EEM assists missionaries in Eastern Europe, Ukraine and the Soviet bloc areas of the world by giving converts and interested people Bibles. There are still a few places in the world that restrict or refuse access to the Bible in their countries. In other places, the Bible is used in schools for reading instruction, morality training and instruction in business principles.

Our view is that access to the word of God creates people who are hungry for the gospel message. EEM makes the word of God accessible to people. Bentonville Church of Christ members have contributed \$65,000 over the past five years, providing Bibles to people who desperately want them.

HARDING SCHOLARSHIP (HS)



HARDING
UNIVERSITY

The HS is given to Harding University for a student majoring in Bible. Bentonville members will be considered first in the awarding of this scholarship, which is in honor of Paul Carter. As an elder at Bentonville, Paul's passion for the teaching and training of young men and women was exemplified through his acts of kindness and generosity throughout the Bentonville church. As a Harding University board member, his belief in the importance of a Christian education and his passion for the training of young men and women who attend the University was evident.

The Bentonville Church is honored to offer this scholarship in his name, in hopes that recipients will impact the world like Paul Carter did. Questions about this scholarship can be directed to the mission committee through the Church office.

The missions ministry is searching for ambitious and caring people to walk with our missionaries on the road they travel. The road isn't easy and isn't even always paved, but it is filled with opportunities and blessing. We are blessed to have great mission partners in so many areas of the world.

Our task, as the church in Bentonville, is not to sit back and watch others work, but to actively participate in their walk. We participate financially by giving, spiritually through prayer, and physically by sharing our knowledge, gifts and talents.

Our theme: **"Walk with Me"**, is intended to foster a bond between our missionaries and Bentonville church members. From the youngest to the oldest members in Bentonville, we can all have a role in missions. Our youngest members brim with potential for the future. Our oldest members help us navigate unclear paths by sharing their wisdom and experience. First John chapter one illustrates that as we walk with Jesus in Bentonville, our missionary brothers and sisters walk with Jesus wherever they are, creating a fellowship and partnership in service. The missionaries we support invite us to walk with them and be part of their missions, as they give us direction and insight into their world of evangelism.

This year has been filled with great blessings. The Bentonville church raised enough money for 2017 to fulfill all our obligations to our missionary families, as promised. We were also able to fund all the budget items for scholarships and programs, including Eastern European Missions, Harding scholarship, and city of Children. We also have a third tier of funding that is more of a "dream" section. We look at our efforts throughout the world and consider what else could be done if the funds were available. Although we have not yet funded any of these proposed endeavors, we have been able to do some other special things. For example, we have committed to assisting a young missionary family from Venezuela, the Damalis family. You can read more about the Damalis family in the Missions section of this booklet. Also, we are so excited to be hosting many of our missionaries during Mission Emphasis Sunday so you can get to know them and can encourage and honor them for their faithfulness and hard work in the kingdom.

From the missions committee, we are very thankful to God and to all of you for your generosity and willingness to serve. Bentonville Church is so blessed.

Thank You!

Tom Benincosa



Bentonville

CHURCH of CHRIST

904 N WALTON BLVD
BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

479.273.2178
BENTONVILLECHURCH.COM

