

My FBC Missionaries

Most great endeavors start with a need, a dream and a desire. For Alan and Melody this has been no different. Alan is founder and president of Children's Relief International. They believe that the "light" of Christ includes both Word and deed, the Gospel and action. Both are needed when working among the poor.

- Lindy Vazquez



Alan & Melody Pieratt
Children's Relief International
Rockwall, Texas

Mission Statement/Goal:

Our mission is to take the light of Christ to the poor of our time.

How long have you been with this organization?

My wife and I are career missionaries. After a decade in Brazil where I taught in two seminaries and we both worked with street children, we returned to the USA and started Children's Relief International in January of 2000.

Your connection (if any) to First Baptist Church, how we came to support you:

First Baptist started supporting us in 1989 when we were raising support to serve in Brazil under the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

How long has First Baptist Church been a supporter of your mission?

You folks are part of a small group of people and churches who have supported us now for 27 years. We have been amazingly blessed by this steady support we have received from you and the others in this original group, almost all of which still support us.

Do you currently need more financial support? If yes, what amount?

We do. But we consistently run at about 90% supported and I know there are many others who need help, so we don't actively solicit for more support.

What is your Life Verse and/or favorite Bible Verse?

I don't know that I have a life verse. I have rather a life calling - to serve God in the person of the poor. A verse that comes to mind often is Matt. 9:35 where Jesus is shown both preaching and healing (Word and deed).

Any current prayer requests?

That God would enlarge our work in Mozambique. My dream is to open a dual curriculum school for missionary kids in the city of Beira. That would allow us to place American missionaries in service at a much larger rate. Such a school would have a regional impact for good. Mozambique is one of the saddest countries in the world. In the villages where we work, almost 20% of the women have AIDS, and more than that many of the middle-aged men have already died of the disease. Children are dedicated to forest spirits and the darkness runs deep. There is much more, I think, that God would have us do there.

FYI – Alan is also fulfilling a dream of a Christian version of "Habitat for Humanity" he calls the "Green Door Project", which he started in 2007. This spring they began their 115th house and will give it to a widow or destitute family in Mozambique. You can read more about it or get involved at <http://www.childrensrelief.org/green-door-homes>