

New Opportunities!

In these days with so many adjustments because of the Covid virus, God is opening new doors of opportunity. These past several months, we have been volunteering at Mission First United Methodist Church in their food pantry. We, along with about 15 others, work together every other week to bag up frozen food, dry goods, and fresh produce to serve 225 families. We look forward to developing deeper relationships with the people to offer them the "Bread of Life".



During a recent visit to El Divino Redentor UMC we met the captain of the McAllen unit of the Salvation Army. We had "rung bells" back in college days and were glad to learn that we could volunteer for several shifts at the kettle this year in support of their many ministries here in the Rio Grande Valley. Just as it did 36 years ago, Kurt's singing while ringing brought many smiles. Unlike our experience while ringing in Indianapolis and Cincinnati, we came away from our shifts here with a bright red sunburn!



It has been refreshing to share in the ministries of several area churches. Our pastoral prayer group, Kingdom Builders, continues to gather to pray for our collective ministries and ways to work together.

Calvary Chapel Metro McAllen Church did a toy collection for kids in Reynosa, Mexico, that several of us partnered with. A group from the church crossed the border on Christmas morning to share the message of Jesus' birth and God's love for each one. They shared some songs and distributed toys to the children present. While most of us were gathered in our homes with dozens of gifts for our families, many children in Reynosa were thrilled to just receive that new soccer ball or baby doll.



On a warm December day, our neighborhood church, Iglesia Evangélica Cristiana (IEC), prepared a picnic supper of two hundred grilled chicken dinners to share with those living within a few blocks of the church. We went house by house inviting our neighbors to come. Many live such secluded lives that they have no idea who lives by them. What a joy to see so many not only come, but also linger around the dinner tables, enjoying the fellowship. What a blessing to us, personally, to get to know them better!



IEC's Outdoor Neighborhood Family Photo Spot

A group of us from IEC also went Christmas caroling in our neighborhood. It was special to see some of the "forgotten" ones come out on their porches to listen to our less than perfect renditions of the songs of Jesus's birth. Several, with tears in their eyes, were grateful for our stopping by.



Kurt and Cynthia Zimmerman, 2108 W. Jackson Avenue, McAllen, Texas 78501

kurt.zimmerman@wgm.org Cell Phone: 865-724-7892

World Gospel Mission, 3783 East State Rt. 18, P.O. Box 948, Marion, Indiana 46952-0948

www.wgm.org 765-664-7331

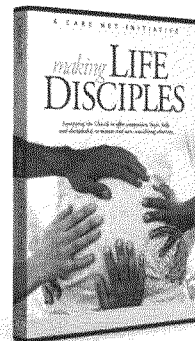
New Learning!

We continue to work with the 2nd to 5th graders at Taylor Christian School, teaching Bible each day and a weekly special class that is a mixture of history, science, and current events. Our students have tender hearts and are learning that they can ask God to empower them to do the right thing even when they don't feel like it! What a great life lesson!



Speaking of lessons, we have a lot to learn! So often, things are not as they seem and the real needs of those around us are masked. As we assist with the outreaches of the Taylor Community Center, we're beginning to better understand the needs and the people behind the masks. We're thankful for the trust that is developing and the friendships that are forming.

During the down-days of the pandemic, Cynthia completed an eye-opening course produced by Care Net called "Making Life Disciples". The publishers describe it in this way: *"This training will help turn your church into a central point of compassion in your community, helping you lead with credibility and love while forming a network of support for people at risk for abortion and healing for those who have been personally impacted by abortion."*



The Lord has given us a burden to facilitate this course for people from our local churches. We believe that God can work mightily through it to open people's eyes to His Truth and their hearts to the needs of those around them. Would you pray with us that we will walk in step with the Lord in this process? We pray that through it all Christ's purpose in coming will be fulfilled, "that they may have life and have it abundantly." (John 10:10b)

Would You Join Us?

In Asking God

- ❖ For His guidance for Kurt as he begins serving as the director of the Taylor Community Center
- ❖ For His provision of the funds needed for the finishing touches on the renovations at TCC
- ❖ For His way in every detail of sharing the Making Life Disciples course with our local churches
- ❖ For His will to be done in our lives and in yours

In Thanking God

- ❖ For Christ's coming, that all who believe in Him may have life and have it abundantly
- ❖ For His provision of all that each of us needs day by day
- ❖ For those who shared God's Word and His love with us and with you
- ❖ For the opportunity to share His Word and His love with others

Happy New Year to each of you at Liberty Chapel!
May God bless, guide, and be glorified greatly in you as you serve Him together this year. Thank you for blessing us with your partnerships in the Lord's work here on the TX/MX Border. We appreciate you and continue to pray for you. With love Kurt & Cynthia