



NEWSLETTER

Serving the Underserved

November 2009

Volume 1, Number 10

In This Issue

- From Mike
- Guatemala Outreach
- Riding Outreach Update
- Casa Samuel Orphanage
- Ways You Can Help
- Prayer Requests



Represents one of the families being reached

From Mike

Dear Friends:

I have been waiting for four weeks to send out this exciting news because I wanted the story to be told through pictures; I wanted you to be able to see the faces of those you helped reach in the ghetto of San Pedro Las Huertas. But, as you know, we are in a great spiritual battle for those souls and the devil does not like “good things” to be reported. Not surprisingly, the camera that was used to take the pictures during the October 17 ghetto outreach is giving us problems with trying to download the photos to a computer. However, there is always another way! At this time we will give you pictures of some faces that live in the ghetto, but not necessarily those who were at the outreach. We will also give you some pictures that represent the larger area you helped us reach, but not necessarily the specific area that was reached October 17. The facts given are correct, and even a little “down-played” because I do not want to overstate the results.



Let me say again, THANK YOU for being a partner with Plant Today in one or all of four ways—pray, go, give, and serve. You are the very heartbeat of this ministry. Please enjoy reading the following results of your deep commitment to seeing God’s work move forward.

Mike

Guatemala Outreach

On October 17, the miraculous happened in the town of San Pedro Las Huertas, Guatemala . . . the first ever evangelical outreach to the “ghetto” area took place!

Getting to that point was not easy. I had so badly wanted to go to be there personally, but that was not to be. When the funds were not sufficient for two people to go, we decided to send Pastor Byron Dardon, as he would be the most effective person to send. Later we realized that this was actually a “God thing” because, had an obvious outsider been hanging around, the ghetto people would



Represents some of the kids living in the ghetto

have been even more highly suspicious than they were already.

In an effort to get in as much clothing and supplies as possible, every person going to San Pedro has been taking extra suitcases full of items, up to the limits allowed by the airlines. So, Pastor Byron took his requisite two extra bags of 50 pounds each and went to San Pedro as our representative.

As you know, our primary contacts for our work in San Pedro are Pastor Israel, his wife Cecelia, and their church. Prior to the outreach, Pastor Israel's church caught the vision for this. They went door-to-door in the ghetto, telling of the upcoming event and extending personal invitations. Most importantly, they spent the week before in earnest fasting and prayer.



We were able to reach two areas of the ghetto with two initial outreaches that day, one on the west side of town and one on the east side. More than 100 adults and 100 children were served a meal and given clothing, then experienced a time of praise, worship, and the gospel message, with the children receiving their own presentation of the gospel. Although these initial numbers were lower than we anticipated, we discovered that this was due to skepticism by the people as to what was taking place on their turf. This is apparently based on past experiences with government agencies (i.e. corruption). So, God obviously did not want me there at that point to exacerbate things! Pastor Israel's group believes the numbers will grow with each outreach, as the people see there are no "strings attached."



Represents one of the homes in the ghetto section

The Results:

At least 18 adults accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. We were able to give each of these adults MP3 players with gospel messages loaded on them. These MP3 players were graciously provided to us by Dr. Charles Stanley's ministry, In Touch, free of charge. The players each contain 35 messages from Dr. Stanley, translated into Spanish that are aimed at helping new Christians build a firm foundation in the Lord.

Pastor Israel's people will now be visiting the home of each person who attended the outreach prior to the next outreach that is scheduled for this month.

One of the most exciting outcomes of this event is that two men in Pastor Israel's church have committed to giving their time and talents to be responsible for the monthly outreaches and to plant a church in the ghetto NOW. This church plant is occurring far earlier than we anticipated, as we believed that planting one by next spring was the soonest it could be done. God obviously had other plans and so deeply touched the hearts of these two men!



Children playing during outreach

Riding Outreach Update

The riding outreach is expanding at a rate we did not quite anticipate! We are now accommodating the maximum number of riders we possibly can with the number of horses we presently own.

In addition, the men at "Stand Down House" are set to begin riding with us



Representative of some of the children living in the ghetto area

this week-end. This is an incredible faith-based ministry to homeless veterans, most of whom have fallen into various addictions. These men are striving to change their lives and reunite with their families. Stand Down believes our riding outreach can help the men toward these goals. We encourage you to find out more about this unique ministry at its website, Standdown.org. In addition, the founder of Stand Down, Roy Foster, is up for CNN's "Hero" award. You can vote for him---and we encourage you to do so---at CNN's website, CNN.com/heroes.

Casa Samuel Orphanage (Special Prayer Request)

You have read about Casa Samuel Orphanage in past issues of the Plant Today newsletter. Generous donors of Plant Today paid for open heart surgery for one young child and for book bags for 20 children. Recently the orphanage has come under great spiritual attack and we want to share these things with you so you can be praying for the children and "parents" who live there.



Casa Samuel Orphanage - workers and children



1. Two weeks ago the orphanage received a written threat from a local gang, demanding they pay \$4,000 by 3:00 p.m. that Saturday or one of the children would be killed. They refused to pay because they did not have the funds but, most importantly, because a bad precedent would be set and a vicious cycle would begin. To date, all of the children are safe and unharmed but, as you can imagine, the stress level is high. They did have to hire a second guard (they already have one) to be sure the children make it to school and back safely.
2. Brother Leonel, the director, is very sick with a severe kidney infection.
3. They have been experiencing many financial trials during this time. A six-year-old child got a kernel of corn stuck in her ear and an operation was necessary in order to remove it. Their water pump broke; construction on their cafeteria, which is 50% completed, had to be halted due to lack of funds.

Despite all of these stresses, the children are doing well! Please keep them and the workers in your prayers, as they so desperately need to sense that God is watching out for them.

Ways You Can Help

Our top priority is always prayer and it is our firm belief that nothing happens without it. We are seeing many results from the prayers of you, our partners, and it is becoming known that Plant Today has a highly effective prayer team. If you would like, we invite you to become a member of that team by contacting us at the email or address given in this newsletter. We will then contact you via email with specific prayer requests as they arise. Also, please see the specific prayer requests included at the end of this newsletter.

We are so thankful for a partner that gave the funds to begin and continue the first section of the ghetto outreach. We opened the second section "by faith," with the remaining four sections to be opened in January. We do need additional help with financing the five sections not yet funded:



Representative of the teenagers living in the ghetto area



Represents a "typical" kitchen in a home in the ghetto area

An initial outlay of \$1,250 opens one section, providing the tarps, food, shipping of clothing, etc. for the first outreach for that section;
An ongoing outlay of \$250 per month, per section, provides food for that section's monthly outreach;
An ongoing outlay of \$250 per month, per section, pays to ship clothes, shoes, and blankets to be distributed at that section's monthly outreach.

Another way you can help is by going on our next Plant Today Missions Trip scheduled for April 24 – May 2, 2010. You can then see in person what God has been doing in the city of San Pedro! There are many areas of service in which you can help:

- Medical, dental and eye care;
- Fire rescue training;
- Community service;
- Community outreach.

No special training is required . . . just your willing heart!

All the information for this trip is posted on the Plant Today website, or you can contact me directly for more information.

Thank You for your Partnership!

Prayer Requests

We rejoice in what God is doing through Plant Today and ask that you would continue to pray with us about the following needs:

1. For the San Pedro Las Huertas ghetto outreach.
2. For the many trials being experienced at the Casa Samuel Orphanage.
3. For a ministry center that would house the riding outreach and a future outreach to burned-out pastors and missionaries in need of a sabbatical.



Meeting of the six churches involved in the outreach

Contact Us:

<http://www.planttoday.org>

mikemedley@planttoday.org

mailing address: 9782 Scribner Lane,
Wellington, FL 33414

phone number: 954-646-0977

Florida Dept. of Agriculture & Consumer Services Registration #CH31165. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.