



NEWSLETTER

Serving the Underserved

April 2009

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Local Sunday School Class (please see web site for list of needs).



Typical living conditions

From Mike & Jim

Dear Partners:

Each of you is receiving this email newsletter because you are a partner with Plant Today in "serving the underserved." Thank you for serving so many in such significant ways in such a short amount of time! God has opened doors, and your partnerships and relationships have brought so much to reality:

- Five families are receiving monthly assistance in San Pedro Las Huertas, Guatemala. A small local church is growing numerically.
- Two water fountains have been repaired and three more are in process.
- Testing of the local water supply is in process and plans for an automatic chlorinator are being finalized.
- A medical mission team will be in the town from April 25 to May 2, treating at least 675 patients (through a partnership with ICI – see Strategic Partnerships section below).
- The May 6-11 Community Outreach will impact a total community with the love and message of Jesus Christ.

How GREAT GOD IS! Thank you for your prayer covering and your giving! We apologize for the length of this first newsletter but felt it was important to bring you up to speed as to what God is doing in all areas of Plant Today.

We are going to use some pictures and short details from the above answered prayers, as we believe these visual images will help you as you continue to pray for the ministry. Each picture represents some of the needs that still exist. Thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Laborers Together,

Mike & Jim

Guatemala Outreach

The March setup trip to San Pedro Las Huertas was very successful and very busy! The Holy Spirit's presence was real and tangible in each meeting held. From government heads to fire rescue teams, the Lord had already gone before us and paved the way through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The following is a list of specific accomplishments as a result of the trip and your prayer and financial support:



Repaired water fountain, 19 more in need of repair.



Jim and Mike with volunteer fire/rescue.



Water source "treatment plant," for San Pedro Las Huertas

- God opened the door for two major projects, which will be the main projects for the May trip: 1) the "municipal water tank" (much needed improvements to a central clothes washing facility); 2) at least two water fountains repaired/replaced (for most people, these fountains are their only means of getting water, which they bring back to their homes as they can).
- Detailed plans for the May 9th festival were put into place. This will be a unique outreach for the town, one that includes the whole family!
- The meeting with the "Grand Mayor" of Antigua went very well. The government leaders in Antigua, who control much of what happens in San Pedro, have even embraced the idea of an open market in the center of San Pedro where the locals can sell their handmade items to tourists, etc. This could be a major boost to the local economy.
- The meeting with fire rescue went as anticipated: they are VERY EAGER for any training and equipment they can receive. For now, they have very limited resources but very willing volunteers. Just imagine how much this training and any equipment we can take in will improve the medical and fire responses, and how many people will be touched through this effort. This is truly a remarkable thing! (Note that the medics in the area are so lacking in training and funding that they do not even carry medications; however, they do drive fast! The fire truck is borrowed from Antigua, approximately 5 bumpy miles away, after a fire erupts.)

We rejoice in what was accomplished and for your determined prayers!

South Florida Outreach

Having been involved in a faith-based therapeutic riding program for years, the Medleys were quite surprised when God began moving in this area through Plant Today. Beginning several months ago, He made it clear that there was a need to partner with others in a new program to serve the underserved who had special needs. A representative of the area Stand Down program approached Mike as to using horses for their veterans who are recovering from severe addictions and were formerly homeless. Larissa Esteves, the Medleys' daughter, was approached by parents at her daughter's school who had children with special needs. Children at the original faith-based program were interested in further opportunities to ride. Offers of free horses for a new program were unexpectedly extended. So . . . plans are in the works, horses are being trained, arrangements are being made. Some of you who are our partners have already seen or been involved in the original faith-based program, and you have caught the vision for this new ministry. Stay tuned and see how God moves in this realm!

(Horses being trained for Special Needs ministry)





Living Conditions



One of Plant Today's Adopted Families



Classroom where pharmacy will be set up for medical missions

St. Louis Outreach

A variety of projects have been taking place in Jim's home area of St. Louis, Missouri. For a number of years, Jim has been writing articles on a regular basis that reflect how God has been working in his life and around him. Some of these can be seen on our website, in the "Resources" section. (You can email Jim if you would like to receive these articles on a weekly basis.)

We have been partnering with a homeless shelter, a women's shelter, and a food pantry to do facility repairs, serve meals, and distribute copies of Amazing Grace. We have also distributed copies of Amazing Grace at a local nursing home, and taken in dogs to visit and cheer lonely residents. As an Easter outreach to them, we have prepared decorative egg ornaments and cards containing the legend of the Dogwood and the sacrifice Jesus made for us.



Jim discovered that there is a large unchurched Latin community in the area – as many as 10,000 – and met with leaders from a group called "Amigos en Cristo." Jim has now been partnering with them by helping provide clothing to some of the families, holding weekly prayer/discussion meetings, and holding house-church meetings in homes. At a recent outreach, clothing was provided and God's message shared. At a follow-up the next day, dinner was served and the movie "The Hope" was shown, with an invitation to receive Christ given. Those who received Christ were given further information and a Spanish Bible, and were linked up with the Amigos en Cristo group.

(photo of renovation at homeless center)

Strategic Partnerships

In partnership with International Christian Institute (ICI), a group of doctors and nurses will be going to San Pedro Las Huertas from April 25 – May 2. This group will be working long hours in difficult conditions, seeing over 675 patients during that one week period. Plant Today is privileged to be in partnership with this effort. In January, during a setup trip, we visited the clinic, which was undersized for the medical mission. However, praise God, a school was right next door and it happened that we were able to talk to the superintendent who was able to secure one classroom for the pharmacy and for praying. Praise God for His intervention! Please keep this vital ministry partner and team in your prayers. To learn more about ICI, please visit their website at www.iciministry.org



(photo of medical clinic, no doctors to staff it or medications to dispense)



Ladies washing clothes at the "municipal water tank"



Church in San Pedro Las Huertas

Contact Us

<http://www.planttoday.org>

mikemedley@planttoday.org

jimmohsmer@planttoday.org

mailing address: 9782 Scribner Lane,
Wellington, FL 33414

phone number: 954-646-0977 (Mike)

phone number: 573-576-8434 (Jim)

Ways You Can Help

Not everyone is called to go on a missions trip, BUT everyone IS called to help reach the lost. There are many tangible ways you can do that. One is to provide a scholarship for those who are called to go but do not have the funds. Another is to provide for construction materials that will be needed for the work to be done on the trip, or provide supplies for the children's Sunday School classes. For more ways you can help, please visit our website at www.planttoday.org and click on the "Ministry Opportunities" button.

Prayer Requests

The apostle Paul was not shy about asking for prayer. In Romans 15:30, Paul says, "I urge you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me". In Acts 10:5 we see the Lord answering the prayer of Cornelius, "Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God". Because of the faithful prayer of Cornelius, his entire household was saved! The Lord reminds us in Matthew 7:8, "For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened".

Like Paul, we covet your prayers by the love of Spirit. We believe that only through earnest prayer will this ministry be able to stand against the forces of darkness and be able to forcefully advance and bring light to those who are in desperate need. This is spiritual warfare and we need your prayerful support.

Please pray for the following in the coming days and weeks:

- God would continue to be glorified and worshipped through the ministry efforts.
- God's continued presence and leadership upon Plant Today and everyone involved in the ministry.
- April 25 – May 2 medical missions team in San Pedro Las Huertas.
- May 6 – May 11 Plant Today outreach team.

Thank you for praying for the ministry of Plant Today!

Ministry Thought

The kingdom of God is advancing around the globe as never before in history. During the 10-year period of the 1990s, there were more spiritual births into Christ than the number of people that existed at the time of Pentecost some 2,000 years ago! There are now churches in every nation of the world, yet thousands of people groups remain un-reached by the Word. Equally of concern is the extreme poverty level of Christians around the world as opposed to those we see in America and in general the western hemisphere. Can we in the west stand idly by in our relative material richness as we see our brothers and sisters in Christ perishing around the globe? Or, will we become the "salt of the earth" and "let our light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matthew 5:16-17)? As Jesus came to serve-are we willing to "serve the underserved"?