



Serving the UNDERSERVED

NEWSLETTER

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Philippians 1:3-4:

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 4:8-9

Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

From Mike -

Another Thanksgiving Holiday has come and gone. As I was contemplating “thanksgiving,” I was taken back to many expressions of appreciation that we received this year, both from those we are helping in San Pedro Las Huertas, Guatemala and from riders and parents of the equine program. The following expressions are just samplings of those that were written to me—but they were really written to many of you who gave to bless those making the expressions. This Thanksgiving, I want to share with you some of these expressions of “thanksgiving.” I know you will be blessed by reading the words and seeing the pictures. “THANK YOU” for being an instrument that God has used to make these all possible.



Sincerely,
Mike

From Maxine, the mother of rider Benjamin:

A few months after Benjamin began horseback riding with you I attended a teacher conference. Each of his teachers commented on a big change in his behavior - Benjamin was raising his hand and answering questions for the first time, and in all of his classes! They said he was less shy and more verbal and they wanted to know if anything had changed in his life. I realized the only new factor was his horseback riding. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the wonderful activity my son is doing - something he refused to do for years. You are making a big difference in Benjamin's life and in mine as well.



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From Chief Carlos, head of the San Pedro area volunteer fire department:

We have installed the lifepak5 with new batteries [Plant Today supplied new batteries for defibulators]. We use these every day for the health of the people. We are very happy to have these. Thanks for your support. I sent pictures of the lifepak with batteries. Thanks and until next time.



Again from Chief Carlos:

[Plant Today committed to bringing Chief Carlos to South Florida for one week of training with local fire departments.] How are you? I hope well, I'm very happy because I have received great blessings in my life. With the financial support you gave me to buy my glasses, with the news given to me for training. All this is something I have dreamed of, now I see and feel this dream is going to be really, I am handling the passport and Visa. I will be writing how it is going [with] the process.

You and your team have contributed greatly to keep fighting for the welfare [of] the residents, and the volunteer fire department in Old Town.

Ephesians 4:13, I can do everything through Christ who strengthens.

From Gayla, mother of riders Jenson, Jessa, and Amber:

I just wanted to say how much we appreciate you both. You are such hard workers, and you give so excellently. Jessa is learning to trust, and as a result is sharing at therapy. Jenson is feeling more confident and has agreed to share more in therapy. Amber is joyful and has a new hobby that she's always wanted to do! With the double cost of therapy lately, there is no way we could have afforded horse therapy. Your generosity has given them an opportunity to trust, build confidence, see their possibilities and hopefully want to pursue that future, and give their frontal lobes (of the brain) a chance to develop in places it hasn't because of their early years and trauma. Your generosity has also helped Amber to come out of the shadow and learn! I am so thankful and grateful for this opportunity. I can't say it enough, or express it—so I'll ask my God to show you blessing.



From Candita, co-founder of the orphanage Casa Samuel in Guatemala:

Thank you for your offering. I was able to buy more construction materials for the cafeteria.

Tina is a totally different child altogether. She is able to run and play freely with all the other children. [A



Ephesians 5:20
Always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:12
And giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has
qualified you to share in the inheritance of His holy
people in the kingdom of life.

Colossians 3:17
In whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in
the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the
Father through Him.

I Chronicles 16:34
Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His love
endures forever.

I Chronicles 29:13
Now, our God, we give you thanks and praise your
glorious name.

Psalms 7:17
I will give thanks to the Lord because of His
righteousness; I will sing the praises of the name of the
Lord most high.

generous Plant Today donor provided the funds for Tina's open heart surgery in 2009.] At dinner time she prays and sings with the rest of the children.

Love from all our children and staff.

Another note from those at the orphanage Casa Samuel:

Thank you for your visit. Please thank Mike C. and Peter. It is wonderful to have special people with passion for this type of ministry. We know that all our steps are guided by the Lord. We also look forward to help in any way possible. Again, our home is here for you and your partners.

From sibling Brianna, sister of rider Patrick:

Thank you so much for letting me and Patrick do horse back riding. It is fun. But I'm not sure if Patrick will get on. But let's hope. Thank you so much!



From Letty, head of the special needs school in San Pedro:

Really your e-mail is a blessing for us! It's one of the most difficult times of Brillo de sol... and I'm so sad but we have serious economic troubles. So your supporting it's a blessing. I really want to continue changing the kids' lives, but I can't do it alone. This help may help us a lot. [Plant Today has pledged \$100 per month to the school.] At this time we can't pay 4 months of rent and the last pay for the teachers.



From Liris, the mother of rider Daniel:

Thank you so much for your time and hard work. It is truly appreciated and we have seen such a difference in Daniel over the past few months. He loves being with the horses and his patience and empathy have greatly improved and his self esteem has skyrocketed. Thank you again for everything and God bless.



Psalms 100:4

Enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise; give thanks to Him and praise His name.

Psalms 107:8

Let them give thanks to the Lord for His unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind.

Psalms 118:21

I will give You thanks, for You answered me; You have become my salvation.

I Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

II Corinthians 1:11

As you help us by your prayers, then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

I Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

From Israel, pastor of the church in San Pedro, and his wife Cecilia:

Thank you for the many families that have been blessed by your providing funds for food, clothing, and shelter after the mud-slides. A family of the church was evacuated from their house and do not have any place to live, since it is dangerous from the storm damage. It is really sad and very incredible to see everything directly. Yesterday they removed 2 persons from under the mud, a woman of 53 years and a baby only a few months old. Israel is working with the community removing mud and retrieving what remains of people's belongings.



From Mary, a San Pedro area missionary, after first meeting Mike and Pete in April:

It was a delight meeting you last nite . . . will look forward to connecting in the future. To be quite honest, when Ceci/Israel wanted to bring you over, my first that was 'oh my... more gringos wanting an adrenaline 'fix' by dabbling in overseas trips . . . (I've met SOOOO many lately . . .) Thus my attitude wasn't the most positive... HOWEVER, :), it didn't take LONG to realize where your hearts truly were, and I must admit, it was a RELIEF!!! I quickly picked up on your heartbeats!!!

I'm DELIGHTED you have connected with C & I... they are a great young couple and God has really been working overtime in their hearts and lives! The years are bringing many changes, and it's exciting to watch them grow!!! Yep, a neat couple going full speed ahead for the Kingdom!!!

At any rate, it was a DELIGHT to meet the two of you, and I do look forward to all God has planned for your ministry down here!!! It was also heart touching when I realized how Matt 25:40 had impacted you, too! That's surely a special verse! :)

Another note from Mary, after the October team trip to San Pedro:

It was an ABSOLUTE PLEASURE being with you all these past couple of days!!! What loving and giving hearts!!! It blesses my heart to see people with so much love to give come down and share it with my loved ones here!

You can easily see how wonderful Israel and Ceci are, and the whole family is wonderful!!! I'm blessed to have been given the opportunity to become part of their family.

Thanks for equipping Jeanette and Catherine with such a practical skill!!!! [Holly and Wendy with the Plant Today team taught two area women, Jeanette and Catherine, how to cut and style hair so they could provide haircuts to the local people.] Both were such sweet gals!

Course, thanks ALSO GREATLY for enabling so many to NOW SEE better [the eye clinic]!!! Talk about



VALUE! I've seen a smile before on a face that had never realized what it was like to actually SEE . . . indescribable! (But, I'm sure you've already seen this many times . . . isn't it FANTASTIC!!!)

Blessings to you all, and thanks AGAIN SO MUCH for giving me the privilege to participate with you!!!

Final Note from Mike -

In closing, please let me simply add, "I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers." Ephesians 1:16

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