

# Mission News

FOUNDATION FOR HIS MINISTRY

April 2018

## *Planting Seeds at The Ranch*



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### **Our Purpose:**

To glorify God by making disciples of Jesus Christ. To this end, we share and demonstrate God's love through the power of the Holy Spirit by meeting basic spiritual, emotional, physical, and educational needs of those in Mexico and beyond.

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*The Boys at The Ranch*

Hans Benning and I had planned the day, but things did not go as planned and half of the group cancelled due to the flu. As Proverbs 16:9 tells us, "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps". God had His own agenda for us and as I contemplated what to do about the shortage of workers, God simply said, "Take the teenage boys."

Nine young men joined us as we headed out to the ranch. Hans gave us a brief tour and talked about the men's stories

of drugs, alcohol, crime, self-destruction and often violation of others.

He also talked about redemption and hope. This time planted seeds in these boys. As we began working, I got to know them better. Some boys worked quietly, some tried to find any reason to take a break, and some began sharing their lives. I soon realized that some of these boys had never thought about their future outside of the mission walls. So, we began brainstorming about their passions, skills and what it means to be disciples.

# *Planting Seeds continued...*



*Rancho de Cristo*

After lunch Hans had us remain in the dining hall. The words he began to speak echoed my heart's desire. He shared the fear he had for the boys, not because of who they are or where they came from but because of the broken world we live in. He reminded them that God knows each of their names, but so does the devil and the men at the ranch are examples of listening to the wrong voice. We had each boy stand as we called them by name and laid hands on them as we prayed boldly for their minds and hearts. The men from Rancho and the visitors committed to praying daily for each one



*Hans and The Boys*

of these boys for the next year.

As I drove back to the mission, I was grateful for the plans God had for the day. This day was a highlight for the serving group, for me, and for these boys. A seed has taken root and lives have been changed!!

*By Susan Eichensehr, Baja Mission*



*Hard at Work*

# What is OviKids?

## What is OviKids?

The purpose of the children's church program "OviKids" in Baja is to bring the children to a greater knowledge of Jesus, helping them to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and to teach the word of God with the objective of instilling in the children healthy doctrine, teaching them values and principles that are faithfully aligned to the Bible.

## What does Ovi mean?

The word "Ovi" is an acrostic that means:



*Obedient, Valient, Integral*

**O = Obedient**  
**V = Valiant**  
**I = Integral**

**Three qualities of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ovikids is a place where disciples are formed and we encourage the kids to

discover their spiritual gifts. Simply put, Ovikids is a seedbed of leaders. We firmly believe that children are not only the future, but they are also the present, which is why we formed a group we are calling "Ovi Command." It is a group of children whom we disciple to help



*The OviKids Kids!*

them develop their gifts and talents which God has placed in each one of them. We are forming children who can preach the word of God, so that they can participate in special services for the whole congregation. With children who are musical we are forming the first worship team that is 100% children. Children pray for the sick and miracles happen. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and the power of God. They are developing a genuine faith in every one of their hearts. These are children who know how to evangelize. We know that the first years of life are fundamental in their spiritual development and in Ovi Kids we work to strengthen their hearts and their character according to the character of Jesus.

As a children's ministry, over the course of the year we have different activities such as theater, camps, conferences, and outreach activities which we develop outside and inside the church.

# What is OviKids continued...



*Amazing and Abundant Love*

We have been able to have events of more than 800 children from outside the church in nearby neighborhoods and 700 children in events inside of the Mission Church.

We have been able to see that an investment in the life of a child is an investment in the whole family because the Spirit of God is using them as a witness to expand the Kingdom in every home.



*Pastors.*

*Said Mendez and Sarai Zatarain, Children's Ministry*

*Hello, I am Aaron Irad Monge Perez. I'm 11 years old. When I first came to OviKids I was very sad and resented my life. I was easily angered and I did not want to have friends because about two years ago they took my mom to jail and that has hurt me a lot. I didn't want to go to church but my grandmother made me go. But over time I have begun to like it. God is changing me and now I have friends. I like to pray, sing and participate in the games. Even though God hasn't changed me completely, I know He is working because I am better than before. I am very grateful to my leaders Said and Sarai. They are very good to me.*

# The Agave

Reverend Reid Lunsford was a lifelong friend of my parents and a mentor to me. Reid had a terminal disease and we made frequent trips to visit him in his beloved desert home in Phoenix, AZ. He loved the desert.

In 1966, oil painting classes were offered at our church and I signed up. I chose a picture of an Agave, a desert cactus, to paint as my first oil painting for Reid. The painting wasn't even dry on the canvas when we received the call, "come now," his departure is very near.

Reid was still coherent and delighted with the painting. Other family members flew in as we gathered around his hospital bed in the living room of their home. Chuck began to sing "In the Garden". As he sang the words "and the voice I heard...the Son of God is calling," an angel appeared in the room. Some saw it and others felt its presence. Reid was escorted home by an angel.

In February 1967 the hills of Baja were covered with Agave. Somehow I knew this trip was preordained; negotiations began toward the purchase of the mission property in Vicente Guerrero.



*The Agave Painting*

I never knew what became of the painting of the Agave. In 2012 I was scheduled to speak at the Lutheran Church of Joy in Glendale, AZ. To my surprise, Reid's daughter, June Griffin, came to the service. She brought me the painting which had been lost for over 46 years.

*By Charla Pereau, Founding Director*



## Foundation for His Ministry

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*Thank you, Father, for those who care!*

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### Another University Graduate

I was born in Sinaloa on Nov. 20, 1994 to a single mother. We traveled to Baja, with the hope of finding better working conditions for my mom. I was given the opportunity to live at the student's home in Tijuana and to attend the University, majoring in Marketing. With God's grace I've done very well academically and am now graduating with a degree.



Daniela

At the student's home I found friends who have become like brothers and sisters; family for the rest of my life. Memories will be cherished; soccer games, parties with carne asada and each semester kickoff meeting are things I will never forget. Now as I graduate from the University, I plan to go to Camalu, Baja CA Mexico to find employment in my field of expertise. I am so thankful to the Foundation for His Ministry for giving me the opportunity of a lifetime. It could never have been done without your support.

### IN MEMORY OF

#### Pat McPhedrain-Cedillo

By Barbara Johnson  
By Katherine Nicklin  
By Sharon Bell

#### David Bell

By Sharon Bell

#### Carl Weatherford

By Carla Weatherford

#### Clayton & Mary Peterson

By Robert and Leah Traut

#### Jeanne Fish

By Janet and Ross Lange

#### Jack Durkin

By Janet and Ross Lange

#### Joe & Virginia Sanders

By William and Ruth Gardner

#### Abby-Jill Brauhn

By her Mother, Maggie French

#### Theresa Vander Kooi

By Debra Adler

#### Leon Winarski

By Alice Winarski

#### Bernice Devlin

By The Leighton Family

#### Karin Unnerud

By Hans and Brita Anderson

### IN HONOR OF

#### Lynora Wilson's Birthday

#### Lewis Wilson's Birthday

#### Everrett Wilson's Birthday

By Chuck and Charla Perea

#### The Marriage of Susanna Payne & Daniel Dahlby

By Sandra and Alan Alford

#### Susan Eichensehr's Birthday

By Stephen Horsfield

#### Hellikki Tikkanen

By Kim and Jack Leighton

#### Joy Allison Diaz

By Pat and James Hishmeh