

Dear Friends of GYTTE,

We hope you are having a good beginning to 2024 and that it is not too cold where you are.

In this newsletter you will read about an ecological (stewardship of the earth) retreat we made with members of "El Buen Pastor" church. You will also see photos and hear about our fall regional meeting with Health Promoters. Finally we share about the November AWARE group, with photos, and a letter from team member Sue Harriss who is the Cal Pac UVMIM Coordinator.

In November of 2023 we hosted a wonderful AWARE team led by our good friend Rev. Marian Hartman. The group of 13 people were from 5 states and varied in age from 17 to 86. They worked on a house hand in hand with Alejo, wife-Carolina and daughter Alexa high up on a mountain in the town of Tlancualpican. They painted two buildings and a cement couch, and built a stone walkway.



They learned two ancient techniques that our ancestors used for building walls. Pajarcilla uses cut up straw, then adds mud with a high clay content and water. This gets mixed up well. The other kind is called Cob: Once again they use mud with a high clay content and they make sort of a dough. The straw has to be very well cut up. These two items have to be integrated well. Although they got dirty, they enjoyed learning these techniques.

One more very interesting thing the group did was take the seeds out of the calabaza - like a pumpkin. The seeds will be dried and toasted with a little salt as a snack. They also took the Jamaica flowers off of the stalks. This is time consuming and not easy. We make



a kind of juice out of the Jamaica flower and also grow it and sell it. This year we didn't get much of a harvest so we won't sell any. There wasn't enough rain.



Our Health staff had a great activity on November 11 with the General Regional Meeting for our health promoters. 58 women participated and learned about the care of pets. They also had a beautiful time of remembrance of Muriel Henderson, whose started this wonderful program in 1996.



Before Christmas the people of “El Buen Pastor” church from Puebla City participated in a “Dehydration of Fruits and Vegetables” workshop as well as the “Stewardship of Creation” workshop. They had a great experience at the Tree of Life Center.



We thank God for you and your work to build the reign of God here on earth. Please consider a visit to GYTTE soon.

In Christ,

Nan, Miguel, Clara, Cata and the whole team of GYTTE.

Give Ye Them to Eat in Tlancualpican, Puebla, Mexico

By Susan Harriss CalPac (California-Pacific) UMWIM Coordinator

I was recently privileged to join a composite mission team in a 10-day journey to Tlancualpican in the state of Puebla, Mexico. We participated in the AWARE program conducted by the Give Ye Them To Eat Mission project. The program is a cross-cultural experience through work and study designed for teens and adults. The AWARE program immerses you in the reality of life in rural Mexico as it relates to the issues of hunger, poverty, development, and global awareness. The program introduces you to the complexities and root causes of mass migration. We were able to reflect on and participate in tasks that are part of rural life. The Tree of Life Training Center run by the GYTTE Mission is where we lived and worked for 5 days with a team of twelve that ranged from 17 years to 86 years old. Our training included ecological construction techniques using local materials which we put to use at the training center. We were also fortunate enough to further our usefulness with these skills to help in the construction of a house for a local family.



The Tree of Life training center, in addition to providing a facility for community training, is also a working farm. There are chickens and turkeys to be fed and eggs to gather. The goats are always hungry and look expectantly as we pass by wondering if we are there to feed them. If you ask one of the farmhands, they will teach you how to milk a goat. Catching the goat should best be left to the farm workers.

Part of the experience is becoming more aware of the world that we live in. We visited historical sites, museums, and had the opportunity to explore the city of Puebla and gain an appreciation for Mexican culture and history. As a team we worshipped and enjoyed fellowship at the Methodist Church in Tlancualpican where we participated in worship with the local congregation.

Give Ye Them To Eat mission project was founded in 1977 as a social outreach program of the Mexico Methodist church to combat hunger and poverty in rural areas. There are six programs that make up the GYTTE ministry that are focused on the limited-resource families of the rural sector of south-central Mexico. GYTTE offers development opportunities in the areas of:

- Community and Family Health
- Community Development and appropriate technology
- Agricultural Development
- Livestock Development
- Church and Faith Development

AWARE Program – a cross-cultural experience through work and study. This is an exciting and fulfilling mission experience that is very worthwhile for adults and teens. It provides a window into rural Mexico that one would not get by being a tourist to the country.

