

LET'S TACO 'BOUT OUR MISSION GIVE YE THEM TO EAT

A MISSIONARY NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR PAT & KIM LEWIS

REV. PATRICK LEWIS AND DEACONESS KIM LEWIS SERVE AS CO-DIRECTORS OF GIVE YE THEM TO EAT (GYTTE). GYTTE IS A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO AND THE GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MISSIONS.

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ONE SMILE, ONE LIFE, ONE PERSON...

What if the measure of a life well-lived was simply this: one life changed? Last month in Tochimizolco, that kind of impact came alive as a medical/dental mission team from Olathe, KS and Tempe, AZ joined dentists from Puebla, GYTTE's Community Health Promoters, and volunteers sharing Bible stories and children's Bibles. Together, they became hands, feet, and hearts in motion.

This partnership has been growing for 30 years, rooted in a relationship that began after an earthquake when a youth group from Grace United Methodist Church helped rebuild the church in the village. Since then, teams from Grace and Dayspring UMC have returned again and again—bringing healing, friendship, and hope—impacting thousands of lives.

The stories say it best: a woman seeing her own photo for the first time and asking, "Is that me?" A child arriving in fear for dental care and leaving laughing, proudly showing a pain-free smile. A woman battling cancer who could barely walk because of the pain in her hips, left with a cane and hope. Families receiving medical attention they had never had access to before. And then there was Larry—serving since the beginning—embracing old friends like family, tears in his eyes, overwhelmed by joy—sharing cross necklaces and hugs with everyone.

There is a wonderful thing that happens when we serve God and our neighbor. Lives change. Often we are changed as much as those we are serving. Imagine being able to see for the first time in years, being able to eat without pain, having a condition diagnosed and medicines provided without cost. It is hard for us to imagine, but for each of us we can imagine the look on someone's face when they feel better. We can imagine how our lives are changed when a person genuinely thanks us for something so small, we barely knew we did it. We can imagine how it feels when people are fed, healed, and filled with joy as we are there to witness. Now, imagen how that would make you feel. Powerful, isn't it?



God is here, working among the people. We are invited to walk alongside and witness the miracles. Sometimes the life changed is our own.

TAMALES FOR TOCHIMIZOLCO

A BREAKFAST WITH MEANING

Before our Community Health Promoters and VBS Volunteers departed for Tochimizolco, we gathered to share a simple but meaningful breakfast: tamales.

While tamales are a familiar comfort food today, they also carry a remarkable history that stretches back thousands of years. More than 2,000 years ago, Indigenous peoples of ancient Mesoamerica created tamales as a practical meal for life on the move. Wrapped in corn husks or banana leaves, tamales were easy to carry, stayed fresh during long journeys, and provided nourishment for travelers, workers, and families.

Historians believe tamales were commonly eaten by Mayan traders during expeditions, Aztec messengers traveling long distances, and hunters or warriors who needed portable food.

At the center of tamales is maize, or corn, a crop considered sacred by many Indigenous cultures. In some traditions, corn was believed to be the very substance from which humanity was created. Because of this, tamales became more than food — they became part of ceremonies, gatherings, and everyday life.

Today, tamales continue to connect people through culture, memory, and community. In Puebla, tamales are made in many flavors, from savory varieties with all sorts of chiles and mole to sweet options such as strawberry filled peaches.

Our send-off breakfast was more than a shared meal — it was a moment of connection before beginning a meaningful journey together.



HEALING HANDS, FAITHFUL HEARTS

Last month, the state of Puebla received a double blessing as a medical mission team from Nashville traveled to serve in Ixtepec. This faithful team makes the journey to serve twice each year — a remarkable commitment that continues to bless the community time and time again.

Their willingness to return year after year speaks to the relationships they have built and the deep calling they feel to serve. Through every patient seen, every hand held, and every act of kindness shared, their work went beyond medicine — it was a ministry of presence, healing, and service.



FIESTA OF GRATITUDE

With every mission team that visits, we host a special fiesta to celebrate and thank volunteers for the time, energy, and love they share through their service.

One of the highlights of every fiesta is the piñata — a beloved tradition in Mexican culture enjoyed by both children and adults. Filled with sweet treats, the piñata brings laughter, excitement, and a sense of togetherness to the celebration.

TIME WITH TERRY

A REUNION OF LEGACY, LEADERSHIP, AND LIVES TRANSFORMED

Some visits feel like history and vision meeting in the same breath. This was one of those moments, as we welcomed Terry Henderson, founder of Give Ye Them To Eat, back to the ranch. His time with us became a meaningful gathering of reflection, gratitude, and inspiration as we listened to the vision that first set this ministry in motion—and continues to guide it today.

In a sacred moment, we laid to rest the ashes of co-founder Muriel on the ranch she helped shape and love. It was a special time honoring a life that continues to echo through every part of this ministry. In that same spirit, we dedicated the Hope on Wheels trailer in her memory—a symbol of continued care, movement, and mission.

As stories were shared and memories revisited, it became clear that this is more than history—it is a living legacy. Terry's vision, Muriel's foundation, and the faithfulness of so many continue to be seen in every life touched, every team formed, and every community served.

We are deeply grateful for Terry's visit. Our prayer is that we remain faithful stewards of this legacy—carrying it forward with humility, gratitude, and purpose.



¿EN SERIO? ¡SÍ, EN SERIO!

REALLY, GOD?

There are moments when life unfolds and all you can do is look upward and ask, “Really, God?”—especially when everything seems to be going wrong at once.

A few weeks ago, we welcomed Regional Supervisors Cristian Schlick and Adam Hodge from the General Board of Global Ministries. We toured the ranch during a particularly warm day with the kind of heat that makes even shade feel like a spiritual gift! And Kim had injured her knee the day before and was using a cane. All in all, we had a blessed day! However, when we started to head back toward Puebla, we didn’t even make it five miles from the ranch before our car died!

What followed was a slow-motion field trip in problem-solving: a push down a busy highway (complete with speed bumps that had opinions of their own), Kim steering while the rest of us provided horsepower, and a stop at a gas station where we were kindly pointed toward a mechanic with a confirmation of the problem—water pump failure. On a late afternoon, with limited time and even more limited Spanish (on our part), we began the search for help and were grateful that Cristian and Adam were fluent in Spanish.

Mechanic shop after mechanic shop, we were kindly redirected with increasing creativity —“try my cousin,” “go two more blocks,” “he might be there later,” “maybe tomorrow.” Four stops later, we finally found the part we needed... but still no one available to fix it in time for Cristian and Adam to make it back to Mexico City for another appointment.

We laughed, prayed and sweated—a lot!

Thanks to the original mechanic for providing two containers of water, we somehow made it back to Tlancualpican and asked for help from our GYTTE team. And then came the unexpected grace. Our co-worker, Sala, had a cousin named Hector who was a mechanic. However, it was Hector’s birthday and he was already celebrating. But our timing, somehow, was perfect. He was able to help us, and suddenly what looked like a dead end became a possibility! Héctor worked late into the night. By midnight, our vehicle was running again.

What originally looked like frustration turned into provision at every turn. We weren’t stranded in the middle of nowhere. We were surrounded by people who helped, guided, translated, repaired, and cared. We gained new friends, deeper stories, and shared laughter.

Because sometimes what feels like everything going wrong is actually a reminder that God is already at work in every detail. Gracias, Dios.



Team members Manolo, Sala, Arturo, David, and Angel learning how to operate El Toro Azul.

INTRODUCING “EL TORO AZUL”

Meet our newest helper on the ranch: El Toro Azul — the “Blue Bull.” Thanks to the generous support of the Lloyd family, GYTTE was able to purchase its very first tractor after 35 years of caring for the land by hand.

With this tractor, we will be able to better tend the earth, support restoration projects, and improve the entrance road to the property!

But perhaps the greatest impact goes beyond the land itself. El Toro Azul creates an opportunity to train our ranch employees in a valuable new skill, expanding both confidence and vocational experience. In addition, the tractor will be rented out for revenue-generating work, helping support future ministry and sustainability efforts.

We are hoping to purchase essential implements (used) such as disc, harrow, and tiller.

If you would like to contribute toward this exciting project, use the GBGM website Advance # 07629A and indicate your desire to support our tractor ministry.



HOPE ON WHEELS

ESPERANZA SOBRE RUEDAS IS OFFICIAL!

The Hope on Wheels Trailer is a new outreach initiative of Give Ye Them To Eat (GYTTE), created to bring practical help, resources, and visible hope directly into underserved communities. Special thanks to First UMC of DeKalb and Fred and Robin for the financial support that made this possible.

We pray the trailer will serve as:

- A mobile relief unit for disaster cleanup, repair, and rebuilding
- A power source for charging devices, running tools, and storing medicines
- A support resource for medical and dental mission teams
- A tool for Community Health Promoters to offer care and education
- A response unit for construction projects and community outreach

A key part of the Hope on Wheels ministry is the Hope Kits—the very supplies that will be carried and distributed through the trailer when teams are in service in the field for disaster response, medical and dental mission trips, or community workshops and outreach events.

Kits include Cleaning Kits for homes after storms or disasters and Hygiene & Menstrual Kits to support dignity, health, and daily life. We invite you to sponsor a Hope Kits, so the trailer can be fully equipped and ready to respond wherever it goes. Kits are \$35 each. We need 50 of each kind. How can you help us reach our goal?



TEETH TEAM FOR TLAN!

CHEW ON THIS OPPORTUNITY

We are praying for another dental mission team to serve the village of Tlancualpican, the small village closest to the Tree of Life Training Center. The need for dental care and hygiene education is great, and even a few days of service can make a lasting impact.

We are especially seeking dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants who feel called to share their skills in a meaningful way. Perhaps there is someone in your church or community who would welcome this opportunity to serve.

A mission like this takes more than dental professionals alone. Volunteers are also needed to help check patients in, serve meals, organize dental supplies, clean instruments, and simply sit with patients to offer conversation, comfort, and encouragement. These moments of care often become moments of connection. A smile restored, a fear eased, or a kind word shared can remind someone that they are seen, valued, and loved.

Maybe today as you read this you are feeling the tug, and invitation to join in the miraculous work being done with God here in Southern Mexico. Maybe you feel you too can change a life. Maybe you are looking for a change, one that will allow you to use your gifts to change lives and witness God working among us. If you are feeling that tug at your heart, reach out to find how you can be involved.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

We invite your prayers, support, and presence. Give! Collect items from the Wish List! Enter into a Covenant Relationship! Send a Mission Team! Pray! Share our Story!

Read our blog: <https://frommoleto ministry.blogspot.com> Let us know how you would like to get involved: klewis@umcmmission.org or plewis@umcmmission.org



For five decades, GYTTE has supported families as they move from survival to sustainability through faith, relationships, and practical development. Founded as a social outreach initiative of the Methodist Church of Mexico, GYTTE walks alongside families facing hunger, poverty, and limited access to essential resources—creating pathways toward dignity, resiliency, and hope. More information can be found on Facebook and GYTTE.org. You are invited to donate to the ongoing programs of GYTTE through GBGM Advance No. 7629A.