

## Puente De Amistad Autumn Newsletter 2021

A huge thank you to our teams of 2021, who chose to continue to minister in Tijuana in a time of uncertainty. We finished out our 2021 season on October 16<sup>th</sup>, hosting a total of 18 teams this year. We were elated to partner with MOVE in May to build a feeding kitchen for a local church that the LORD is using mightily in their neighborhood. A month later, a team from Iowa, led by Tony Kockler, added to the second story to complete the outer structure of the project.

We built eight homes for families in need here in Mexico. In late August, we also partnered with our home church, First Church of the Open Bible in Clear Lake, Iowa, and constructed one handicap accessible bathroom for a men's hospice. Our last house build for the year was in October, which we were blessed to build for our former Puente de Amistad interpreters, Pastors Juan and Elain Mora. For this project we partnered with the One Foot Project from Heritage Community Church in Bismarck, North Dakota, pastored by Richard Brennan, and with Pastors Reggie and Johnetta Lewis from Open Bible Church in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Missionaries Mike and Pam Lumbard brought a team of their School of Global Leadership students to serve in Tijuana for five weeks in May. They were kind enough to help lead the ministry with Puente teams while they were here throughout the summer. Please continue to pray for them as they minister around the world with the SGL students and for their upcoming trip to Kenya. We really enjoyed getting to know them more this summer. We value the time and input they had into our lives and our teams this year!

We were blessed to have three high-quality volunteers this summer: Skylar Sandford, from Fort Des Moines Open Bible in Des Moines, Iowa; Taylor Maher, from Open Bible Christian Center in Rapid City, South Dakota; and Crystal Fellows from First Church of the Open Bible in Ottumwa, Iowa. Skylar and Taylor served here for three of our busiest weeks in July. Crystal stayed with us and was enormous help all summer long!

As far as our family goes, we continue to homeschool our children, Wesley (9) and Mya (8). The schools here in Tijuana have not yet returned to full in-person classes yet. Homeschooling is both a blessing and a burden. Pray that our children learn what is important and are able to have fun along the way! Now that we are in the administration season, I (Travis) am in the office daily preparing for and discussing upcoming trips with group leaders and also tackling the long overdue maintenance of Puente that accrues over the summer months. Heather is

teaching the children and enjoying more available time with the Lord and cooking for our family.

We also want to say thank you to all of you who have blessed us in our journey as missionaries. Many of you have given sacrificially to keep our family on the field. This is your win too! **You** helped build eight homes this year for families in need, one feeding kitchen that is constantly being used to share Jesus and change a community, and one handicap accessible bathroom for a men's hospice. On the behalf of those here in Mexico and our family, we just want to tell you: **We are grateful!** 

"Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the LORD delivers them in times of trouble."

Psalms 41:1

"Dear children, let us not love with words or speech, but with **actions** and in truth."

1 John 3: 18

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