
2023 Hunsaker Fall Newsletter



Well, Puente family, it is that time of year already, "Newsletter Time"! It sure seems like the 2023 year has flown by. The last time we wrote to you was in March! In our last letter we talked about our first three teams of the year. Let's catch up on how the rest of the year has gone!

SGL (School of Global Leadership)
Led by Missionaries Mike and Pam Lombard

The School of Global Leadership from Trinidad, partnered with Puente de Amistad (*Bridge of Friendship*) once again. The team this year consisted of people from Trinidad and the United States. They ministered in many different capacities during their two weeks in Tijuana, Mexico.



West Hills Community Church

Led by David and Cindy Burns

The West Hills team from Morgan Hill, California, has been coming to Puente for over ten years! They build a house slightly larger than the normal size of a Puente house. It is a 16 foot by 24 foot structure. This team brings in a trailer full of their own supplies each year. They install a bathroom, laundry room, and fully equipped kitchen. Their main focus while here is building the house and the team's relationship with the family.



Sunshine Open Bible Church
Led by Ted Smith and Bill Padgett

Sunshine Open Bible team from Des Moines, Iowa, comes every other year and has a big heart to bless families with a Puente house. They do an exceptional job of involving everyone, including the family the house is built for. The team also takes time to minister locally in Tijuana.



Missouri on a Mission

Led by Darin and Robin Paul

"Missouri on a Mission" is a multi-church group, spearheaded by Open Bible Praise Center in Booneville, Missouri. This was their first year coming to Puente de Amistad and what an amazing job they did! Back home, this team regularly ministers to the girls who work at their local gentleman's club. Their ministry was an amazing asset to have them do street ministry and outreach here in Tijuana.



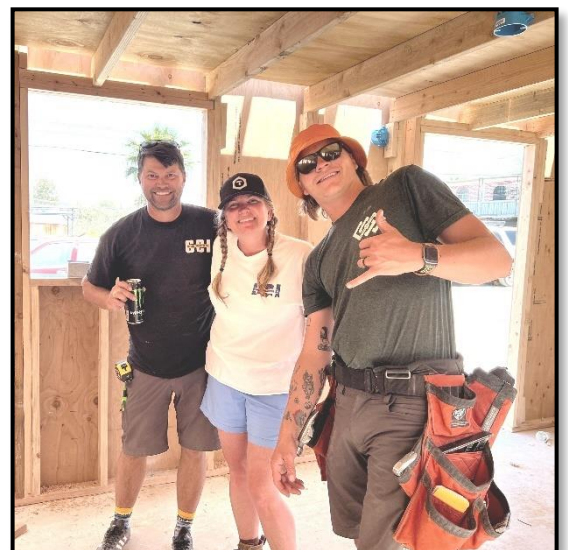
Calvary Chapel Castle Rock

Led by John and Jaime Coffman

This was the first time Calvary Chapel Castle Rock, from Castle Rock, Colorado, had come to Puente on its own. They have strong construction experience and built **two** Puente houses at the same time. The houses were both on the same property! One house was for a pastor and the other was for the pastor's son and daughter-in-law, who were expecting their first child.



You may be wondering, "Why so much for one family?" We needed the space to build a new church for the Pastor! That's right, we had to remove the houses they lived in to make room for the 28 foot by 40 foot church that will be completed this fall of 2023. Stay tuned for our next newsletter where we will highlight this new structure!



Exchange Community Church
Led by Deanne Giffin

This was the second year for Exchange Community Church from Walnut Creek, California, at Puente de Amistad. The group was undecided about building a house in 2023. Then in March, they called and said funds were coming in to build a house for a family in need. This was a miracle because a pastor had just contacted us at Puente de Amistad to ask us for a home for a lady. The lady is a member of his church and had just lost her husband in an explosion that also destroyed their home. Pastor also shared that one year ago that month, her only son was hit by a car and passed away.



If this team had committed to building a house sooner, they would have already been partnered with a family for the year. **I know it was the Lord and His perfect plan that was taking place!**
Thank you, Jesus, for your perfect timing!



Creekside Open Bible and Celebration Center

*Creekside team, led by Mark Hansken.
Celebration team, led by Pastor Dustin Warford.*

Creekside Open Bible from Martinez, California, has been coming to Puente for over ten years. In 2021, Pastor Dustin moved to Puyallup, Washington, to become the Senior Pastor for Celebration Center. His position did not stop him from coming to Tijuana! Creekside and Celebration have come together as one cohesive team for the past two years! Once here, they became a force to be reckoned with!



Team members who have a desire to build, work on the job site, and those with a desire to minister work together to organize a VBS (*Vacation Bible School*) in the neighborhood. I am always impressed by the unity of the team and the bonds that are formed between the two churches.



**First Church of the Open Bible,
Clear Lake, Iowa**
*Co-led by Harvey Austin and Mikayla
VanderPloeg*

First Open Bible Church, Clear Lake, Iowa, has come to Puente de Amistad every year since 2011. It is a pleasure to serve in our local church every year since we moved to Tijuana. For this year 2023, they brought a group of 26 people and 22 of them had never been to Tijuana before!

The team was divided into two groups for a few days because the team was so big. One group worked on the construction site of the house and the other group visited the ministries to help with the needs of the local ministries.



**First Church of the Open Bible,
Ottumwa, Iowa**

*Led by Crystal Fellows
(Soon to be Mrs. Umphress)*

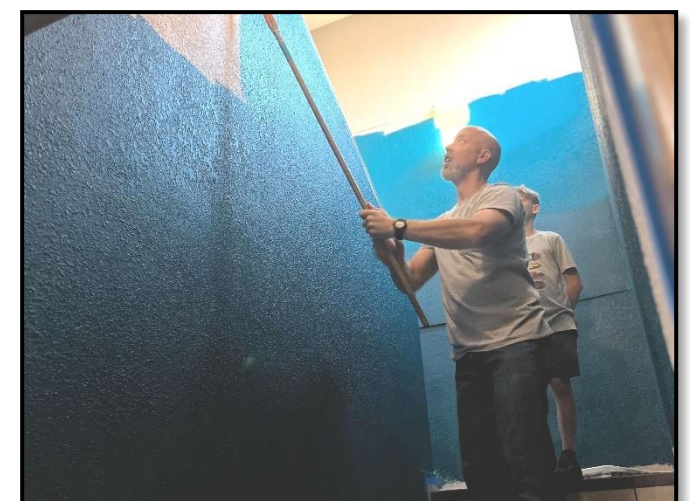
I cannot thank First Church of the Open Bible of Ottumwa, Iowa, enough! The head cook and housekeeper of Puente de Amistad, Amalia Espinosa, had been requesting a new kitchen for the past several years, as the current kitchen was original from the late 1990s. The remodeling of the kitchen and dining room has begun, and now we are just waiting for the counters to be installed. For this reason, there are still no photographs of the finished results. The Ottumwa crew also painted some bedrooms for us in fun colors.



We also want to say a huge thank you to **Open Bible Church of Rapid City in Rapid City, South Dakota**, for donating funds for the new cabinets in the dining room! Thank you so much for all you have done!

A special shout out to Crystal Fellows (*to the right of the young boy in the group photo above*) who has already volunteered with us for the third summer. She helped us with the teams that visited the Puente de Amistad. We also thank Kenneth Finley (*pictured below in a blue and brown shirt on our son's right side*) who has volunteered with us, and it is also his third year. We are so blessed to have the help of such caring people!





As always, I want to end by saying the most important thing,
Thank you!

Without donors and supporters like you, Heather and I would not be able to continue the Lord's work here in Tijuana. You may have never been here physically, but with your financial support you have supported the Kingdom work that is taking place in Tijuana.

"For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty."

2 Peter 1:16 (NIV)



To learn more about Travis and Heather's ministry or to become a one-time or monthly donor, please visit www.bit.ly/MVPhunsaker.



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