

DAYSRING DAYBOOK

Monthly Newsletter of Dayspring Presbyterian Church, 11445-40 Ave, Edmonton, AB, CAN, T6J 0R4

December 2017

GIVING AND RECEIVING

One of my favourite Christmas stories is O. Henry's ***Gift of the Magi****. A newly married couple are determined to give each other the best gift they are able to afford, given their meagre resources. He sells his beautiful family heirloom pocket-watch in order to buy her a set of combs for her lovely long hair. She sells her hair in order to buy him a gold chain for his watch. It's a story that is, at once, beautiful and tragic. But it is, surely, a model for Christian living.

The articles and pictures in this issue by Bernd, Courtney, and Wynne and about Joyce and Ken are about giving. But one can also see very clearly that much is received by the giver. It is, indeed, "more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35) - but gifts of self (time, talent, and money) inevitably result in much blessing. Our minister adds his comments about searching for meaning in Christmas.

Below is a picture of some of the members of the Dayspring Build Team, with ***Live Different**** interns and one of the two families for whom they built new homes in Vicente Guerrero, Mexico.

John Carr

**click to access*



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
Luke 6:38 (NIV)



Dayspring Build Team in Mexico

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Before and After



Wynne

Mexico was pretty fun for me. There were nice people, new things to learn, and more. Being in Mexico was awesome ... except for how some people don't even have homes or hardly any water. But the people we built a house for were nice and they still managed with what they had. They just kept on pushing through the rough parts.

Going to Mexico and helping with building a house was awesome! Every time, you would leave the build site with a smile on your face, knowing that you were helping someone out. The people we were building the house for were nice, and they helped. The family was a BIG help, and especially the two little boys. Even though they were very young (and kinda

small), they would help carry wood, help hammer nails, and all sorts of things. Even though some of us don't know how to speak Spanish, we still communicated with them through different ways and we made friendships. Someday, I hope we will meet them again.

I just loved the part when the two boys in our Mexican family saw their new room. They were sooo happy! That just made me smile, hearing their squeals of joy. And when we were done everything, I could see how overwhelmed the boys' mother was and how she didn't have the words to say anything. When we were done building the houses and everything, and we were saying goodbye to the families, I was kind of sad, because they were like family to me. They were kind in many ways, and so by that I will try to forever remember the time I went to Mexico to build houses for people in need. I will remember how they were overjoyed to see their new houses already built and finished and everything inside.

I liked the part how we got to see the house they made for themselves before we arrived. They did a really good job, even though it was made out of cardboard and stuff. It was still good. Seeing this just reminded me how lucky we are to live in a full, big house and how much food and water we have. That Mexican family is strong and happy, especially with their new house. I'm glad I got to do this trip, and do a build for people in need. I'm hoping that both families we built for will be happy forever.

The place where the volunteers stayed was good. The cooks there were really good at making food and they were very kind. Even though some of us couldn't speak Spanish, we still communicated with them a little bit. I will miss them, and I will miss Andrew and Dawn (the Live Different leaders) and all the other people who came to help.

When we were first heading to Vicente Guerrero on the bus - which was maybe a six hour ride - I kind of enjoyed that. Well, except the part when I felt queasy by almost to the end of the ride. But all of the rest was amazing. Actually, except for the part where my stomach again felt queasy and how sleepy I felt when I was sick at the end of the week. But other than that, it was an amazing experience.

I really hope that I will go back again and build houses again and see the people we built the house for AND the people who were helping us build the house. I will miss you all!

Wynne

My experience in Mexico was incredible. I saw how different life can be for people in another country. Even in the 21st century, there are people without cars, televisions, proper houses, huge beds and lots of clothes. The families we met there lived without power, running water and other essentials that we take for granted. And ... they were happy!!

If we imagined ourselves in that situation, we'd think that it would be impossible to live there, much less, be happy.

The building part of the trip was new to me, because I've never built anything like that before. But, I'll definitely remember the pride I felt while helping build a house that these people will live in and love for a long time.

I loved how well my group worked together. There was always something to do, and people would help if you didn't know how to do something. I really enjoyed talking to the people and doing the jobs together with the group.

When we showed the family the inside of the house once it was finished and set up, they were so happy, their faces just lit up. The little girl was squealing with delight! I loved the feeling I got, knowing that we made them this happy. They won't have to worry about theft, not having a place to stay, or their house not being there when they come home to it.

I loved how amazing I felt, knowing that we changed their lives. I hope that you get a chance to go, too, to experience what I did. It's life changing!

Courtney



Courtney and Friend

FROM OUR MINISTER

Searching for meaning in Christmas

In a world that “has gone mad” and where the spirit of Christmas tends to be stolen from us by a consumerist, commercialised atmosphere all around us, it may often feel like we have lost all of what Christmas could mean to us.

My wish for you is that the true spirit of Christmas will be present in each one of our hearts, not because of what we do or because of what we think, but because God’s Holy Spirit is touching us.

When we can’t “do” or “think” anything to let this real Christmas spirit become part of us, then the only way it can happen is by allowing this Christmas spirit to spill right into our whole being. It may mean closing our eyes, letting go of everything that distracts us, relinquishing control over the things we want to manage, and then merely experiencing – once again – that “Christ the Saviour” was born in a crude stable to be God with us, in our very own lives.

God is love, and the love of God became human in order for you and me to be touched by the life of the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was born in Bethlehem more than 2000 years ago.

My hope for us all is that we may have eternal life and be able to touch and affect the lives of those whom we encounter wherever we go. This way, one step at a time, one life at a time, the world that seems to “have gone mad” can gain a bit of its sanity. Perhaps a measure of contentment can open the path towards some newly found happiness and joy.

A blessed Christmas to you...!



Heinrich



Berndt on Cleanup Detail

I am no Mike Holmes. At home, the power tools belong to Sharon, and if Sharon had not enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to go on this second build trip to Mexico, I would not have gone. But, being the almost perfect husband that I am, if Sharon goes, I go!

My struggle with the high cost of going to Mexico compared to doing the same thing for Habitat for Humanity locally was no different as when we first went in 2014. But, there is no question, that helping poor Mexican families into better shelter is a need that needs to be filled.

What I realized on this trip is that while we have many government and charitable agencies here in Canada to help the needy, this is not the case in rural Mexico, and that made our presence an example to local people that will hopefully demonstrate that they too can help their needy neighbours, as God calls all of us to do. That alone made this trip a worthwhile mission trip, costs and all.

It was also good to see how Live Different, the organization on the ground in Vicente Guerrero, has evolved during the past three years. With support from two Canadian Rotary Clubs, they now have a wood-working shop where they teach locals to build furniture that can be sold or used in builds. We also met four young interns that spent three months there getting involved in the community with other support agencies.

Bernd



Power of Volunteerism

At the December Wednesday Fellowship Lunch, flowers were presented to Joyce Rooney, recognizing her many years of facilitating the monthly gathering along with her husband Ken and several other persons.

Joyce and Ken have been active volunteers in the congregation for two decades. Ken has been our photographer and the main sparkplug

in the initiation of our fotoboard, fotodirectory, and the fotoarrays that appear on the Great Room video each Sunday — chronicling Dayspring’s worship and service.

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DayBook Deadlines
 3rd Sunday of September,
 October and June
 2nd Sunday of December,
 January, February,
 March, April, and May

SESSION

Moderator: Heinrich Grosskopf

Session Clerk: Darlene Eerkes

Deputy Clerk: Iris Routledge

Roll Clerk: Jim Jeatt

Other Elders

Bill Davis	Walters Munde
Jane de Caen	Nick Nation
John Carr	Stanley Ngwa
Ingrid Dukhedin-Lalla	Laura Patterson-
Peter Eerkes	Fortin
Carina Grosskopf	Todd Shipman
Sam Jaikaran	Darleen Springstein
Gina Kottke	Heather Tansem

MINISTER

The Rev. Dr. Heinrich Grosskopf

CHURCH STAFF

Church School Coordinator: Lynn Vaughan

Youth Coordinator: Shane Johnson

Worship Arts Coordinator
 Gordon McCrostie, B.Mus., M.T.S.

Pianist: Binaifer (Binu) Kapadia, B.Mus.

Alternate Pianist
 Darolyn McCrostie, B.Mus., P.D.A.D.
 (Education)

Administrative Assistant: Linda
Custodians: Lindsey & Jim Matthew