

Hello Brothers & Sisters in Christ!

We all send **big hugs of thanks** to those who still faithfully give of their abundance. We know that there are some who cheerfully give even though times are tough and money is tighter than ever. It's times like this that the girls see that God is faithful.

We have happily only run out of heating fuel just one time this winter. Warm days are here now and boy does the sunshine feel good! A terrible flu came through Reto, effecting nearly all the staff and interns. I myself got it in 3 waves (so far), missing at least one shift at work each week for 4 weeks now. Antibiotics and corticosteroids didn't touch it. Each time I felt better and went back to work, I got worse than before, which I hadn't thought possible. Letty and Pastor Clemente each got it bad. I stayed home from Reto this week in hopes of keeping this thing from spreading again. Most of the girls have poor immune systems due to their history of addiction. So they get sick easily. We go over again and again the rules of strict hand washing, covering the cough, drinking plenty of water and rest, rest, rest! Sometimes I wonder how any germ can grow there- the place is always immaculate.



News from Kate and the girls at Reto!



This coming week we will make some samples of smaller projects that can be sold quickly for a low price. There are now almost always new students in one or more of my sewing classes. They can't start a regular project until they have been here at least one month, and then only if they are truly committed to stay in the program. In the mean time, they will learn to use the rotary cutters by cutting out these simpler projects. They will learn hand stitching by stuffing and closing *quilt square pillows*. They will **learn the parts of the sewing machine, how to make simple adjustments and how to clean and oil them. Above all, they will learn to give thanks to God for our time together and ask Him for wisdom at the beginning of each and every class.** They witness and learn how to be good stewards of God's provision, and get what is sometimes their 1st experience with **agape love between sisters in Christ**. By the time they are eligible to enter the sewing program officially, they will be ready to be signed off on their 1st four modules, which is a bonus for all of us.

- Only 2 out of 5 girls have ever sewn by hand before entering our class
- 1 out of 15 have ever seen a sewing machine being used
- 1 out of twenty have ever used a sewing machine
- 1 out of 10 has operated a car
- 1 out of 25 have never used anything with a motor; not even a microwave or hair dryer.**
- Girls who have driven a car are 10 times more likely to be able to sew a straight line by their 3rd try.


Great News!!!!

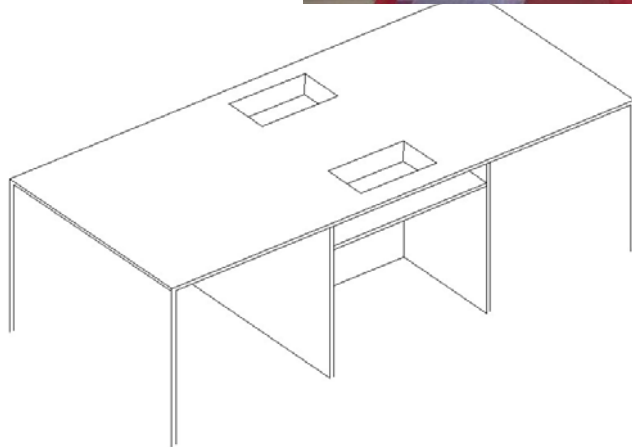
Last week I received a letter from Rebecca, our 1st scholarship recipient 3 years ago. I was elated! She says, "Hello and thanks again." She wrote that she will never forget me and the things that she learned, and that she still prays for me. She said I was the first person who believed in her and encouraged her to live to her full potential in Christ Jesus. Rebecca believes that **because of this class, she has been able to excel in many areas of her life.** She is more organized and thrifty. Rebecca's favorite thing that she learned is that she **can do anything through Christ, but she has to try.** If one has even the simplest dream, **if they don't try, they have failed already.** Rebecca puts her best foot forward in faith, and God is blessing her mightily.



In these two photos you see a lady named **Claudia**. She is a recent graduate of Reto and has stayed on to help with cooking and supervision. This was not her 1st time here, not even her second time. In fact, I still have a photo on my fridge of the group of interns and staff from my very first visit to Reto, 4 years ago. She was there! I had heard that **she had left the program** and was sad. I didn't stop praying for her. Imagine my surprise to see her return and finally finish the program! What a blessing it has been to see God work in her life. I can see **such a difference in her countenance**. She sings like an angel!

So there you have it. This is just a tidbit of the **fruit** that comes from your wonderful **gifts and continued prayers**. God has **multiplied** it all. Times are tough. More importantly, time is short. How many virtuous women of Reto are out there **spreading the Gospel message** to Mexico? One day we will all find out. In the mean time, isn't it great to be a part of it?

In His grip, Kate 



Another note just in from **Kate**: “I just spoke to Elena and the **Mexican United Way** has agreed to fund the **storage cabinets and the sewing machines!** (She says it should be only a few more weeks! I would like to see sewing tables worked into the big plan too.)”

We are working up a **sewing table design** which will be able meet the needs for appropriate work stations at a fraction of the going prices for sewing cabinets. These would be assembled on site for just the cost of materials and they will be much higher quality than the much more expensive ones in today's catalogues. They're being custom designed without any unnecessary frills; with effectiveness, efficiency, functionality, and durability in mind. What the girls have been working with so far is the basic antique cabinet where the top folds out to the side; but no space extending to the back of the work area. New cabinet prices are outrageous and include many features which are unnecessary for the classroom setting.

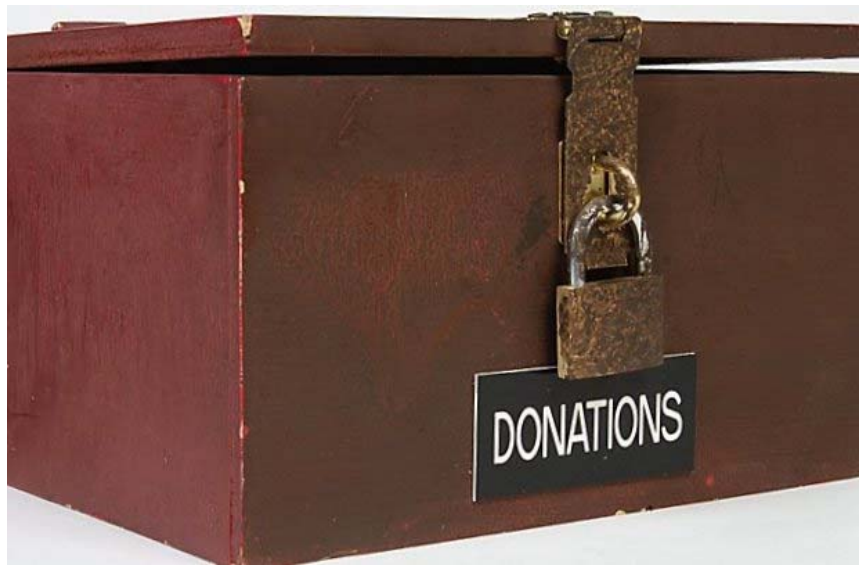
Things are not all as rosy for Kate as they might seem. People do ask why she continues to minister in Mexico, and, “wouldn't she be safer not going into the Juarez area?” Well, when God calls you to minister in a particular place, that's where His hand is on you. She's actually more comfortable being in Mexico at Reto than at her own home, and her dream is to “retire” with the ability to be in FULL time ministry. But she has to continue working at the hospital in the US in order to try to make ends meet. Her place was actually broken into and robbed recently, she's been ill several times lately and was possibly even facing eviction due to lack of finances. Thanks to some timely contributions we're able to help Kate stay in her place and keep pressin' on — with a wonderful attitude. She says, “Thank you, that's going to help a lot. My little church family here just raised funds to buy a prosthetic leg for a pastor in Juarez, a new amputee, so it was bad timing. But pastor Morris and his wife Pam donated Micaela's \$25 for this month. Her husband was able to get the electricity back with that, so the little fridge is protecting perishable foods again, and he can use a power tool for his auto body work, their only other income. Last month I found someone to help her with her heart medicine. We're all kind of hanging by a thread, but it's God's thread, amen?”

Do Continue to Pray for Kate, Reto, and the ministries in Mexico. Many are currently Fasting and Praying for the City, the Country, the People, the violence, the Ministries, Provision, Protection, ...

In-Kind Donations

We do have a new way that we would like to challenge you to consider participating in the ministry. As we are all well aware, things have been pretty tight recently for many of us. In spite of reductions in both expenses and ministry involvement, the Alms have actually been contributing financially as well as administratively; and not receiving the full amount of support designated for them.

We are now partnering with Charity Gift Bank (CGB) to help support ministry in a unique way. CGB assists us by picking up, storing, selling and even delivering donated items. These items can be anything from jewelry to time shares. Any items you feel are worth a minimum of \$50 are a welcomed donation. The proceeds are given directly to Shine On Mexico; allowing us to continue to focus on our mission while CGB handles the fundraising in a way that works well for everyone (in the Denver - Fort Collins area).



WHAT KIND OF ITEMS ARE WE TALKING ABOUT? Recent times have caused many of us to simplify our lives, and maybe you've had various other changes as well. Simply look around your home, office, garage or yard. There are probably many things you don't really use; some of them may even seem invaluable to you. We would like to help you find a new home for them. ("**One man's trash is another's treasure!**") You'll get to give a gift, get a tax deduction, get rid of your unused things, get the use of your space back, get the things into the hands of someone who truly appreciates them, and support the ministry — reaping **ETERNAL REWARDS!**

Here are a few ideas to get you thinking:

Antiques
Appliances
Art
Beds
Bicycles
Building Supplies
Cameras
Camping Equipment
Computers
Desks
Eye Glasses
Gifts you'll never use
Grills
Jewelry
Ladders
Lawn and Garden Equipment
Motorcycles
Patio or Lawn Furniture
Recreational or Sports Equipment
Sewing Machines
Sofas and Chairs
Tables and Armoires
Telescopes
Tools
Toys
Utility Trailers
Vacation Time Shares
Vehicles
Zip Line Equipment

Isaiah 58 (The Message)

⁶⁻⁹"This is the kind of fast day I'm after:
to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed, cancel debts.
What I'm interested in seeing you do is:
sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.
Do this and the lights will turn on,
and your lives will turn around at once.
Your righteousness will pave your way.
The God of glory will secure your passage.
Then when you pray, God will answer.
You'll call out for help and I'll say, 'Here I am.'

A Full Life in the Emptiest of Places

⁹⁻¹²"If you get rid of unfair practices,
quit blaming victims,
quit gossiping about other people's sins,
If you are generous with the hungry
and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,
Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.
I will always show you where to go.
I'll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
firm muscles, strong bones.
You'll be like a well-watered garden,
a gurgling spring that never runs dry.
You'll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.
You'll be known as those who can fix anything,
restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
make the community livable again.

(continued)

We're calling this fundraising appeal for In-Kind donations **the Spring Cleaning Drive.**

We'd like to help you get rid of all that excess stuff!

Your donation is completely tax deductible and you will receive a receipt for your tax records.

Please let Lori know if you would have anything ready for us to pick up on Saturday, April 10th; otherwise, If you'd like, you can also contact Lori to for directions on where to drop off your items whenever you're ready.

Lori's Cell number is: 303.596.7885

As always, thank you for your support and for helping to further the work of The Kingdom!

Get The Word Out!

In the end of February we had a great (& challenging) time in Mexico with Mary Jean

Powers. Here's a summary of what it took to get there and some of the details of the time there:

The instrument panel went out on the van (**no speedometer or gas gauge**).

When we got into El Paso the van started **shimmying** at moderate speed.

We decided to get two **new tires** in El Paso due to the forecast for snow in the sierra.

We had an **alignment** done but that still didn't solve the shimmy (I learned how to accelerate in a way which helped reduce the shimmy.)

Our **translator** for Mary Jean was switched and finally confirmed at the last minute.

The main valve on the big propane tank at the house in El Terrero had a **bad leak** when turned on.

A pipe to our reserve water tank in El Terrero was frozen and **shattered**.

We blew a **main fuse** at the house and fortunately had a replacement fuse holder too since the entire holder burned.

We got off to a good start in Madera; the first evening was a smaller group than we expected, but those who did come commented on how **blessed they were!**

Pastor Juan Carlos and his wife Yanira had been sick recently; we prayed that they **recover completely and quickly**.

Pastor Javier Valdez was going to come but has also been sick.

Please pray that God's word will truly **break through** in this community; we see that

God is truly stirring things up in the region.

We heard that many of the churches and ministries in the Juarez area are coming together in **prayer!!!!**

Mary Jean shared with us about some of the **Tara** people she got to meet recently and the ways God is working through them in their communities. - Pray for strength and increased favor for the Tara Christians!

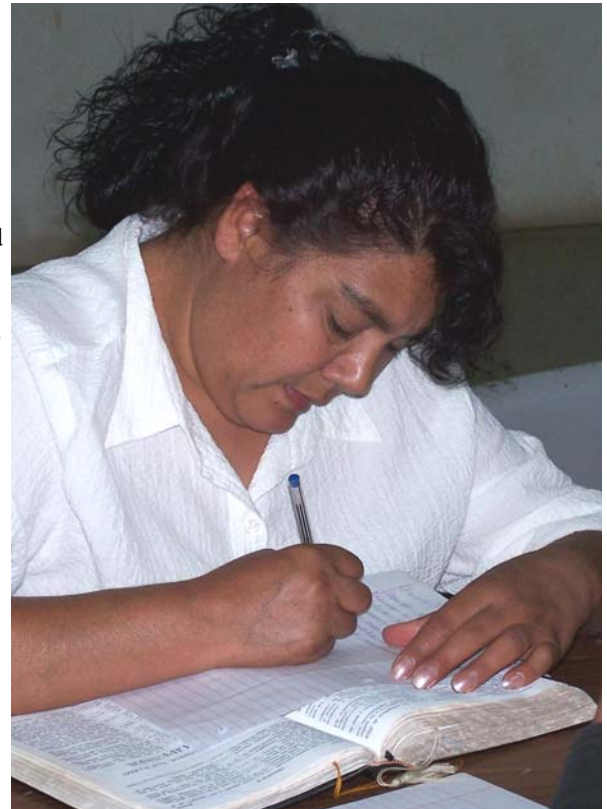
For the final session; a teaching on praying the Word, we had another good turnout and **an additional pastor** join us for the evening!

Juan Carlos and Yanira got **feeling better!**

I got the struts changed on the van. This helped quite a bit, but the root of the issue still wasn't found till we got back to El Paso - a bad axle joint.

WOW! What a great time with the Church in Madera! As usual, so many lives were impacted by such a **simple message!** What a privilege it is to get to be a part of this! (Young girls, whole families, and pastors expressing great gratitude for the Word of The Lord.)

Mary Jean had this to say about the trip: **"You know, I wish you were here. I wish you could meet the leaders I have had the honor of working with on this trip. Be encouraged. There is a remnant in Mexico! There is always a remnant, Church - always. There are consistent traits throughout this remnant - consistent every place I've been: the remnant fears God, loves God, obeys God, loves the Word, loves to worship, loves to pray, loves people, sacrificially gives, helps the poor and needy.**



The people I've worked with on this trip are unknown. They are simple people with pure hearts turned toward God. They know they've been rescued. They know they are literally saved. And they've given their lives back to their Maker.

In Juarez, the Church has had enough of the darkness. The government has not been able to create change or safety for the people. And the Church has finally said, "ENOUGH!" All 85 churches - including the Catholic Church - have joined together to attack the problems in Juarez in the power of prayer and the Spirit! They have begun 40 days of fasting and prayer. They will have a "campaign" in April and march through the streets, going public with their allegiance to the Kingdom of God. They will meet together and different pastors/leaders will be teaching on the part the Church plays in government, education, society, entertainment, etc. etc. The Church in Juarez has decided to be The Church!"

Anger of God

We have to see the mess we are in before we can appreciate the God we have. Before presenting the grace of God, we must understand the wrath of God.

Many don't understand God's anger because they confuse the wrath of God with the wrath of man. The two have little in common. Human anger is typically self-driven and prone to explosion of temper and violent deeds. We get ticked off because we've been overlooked, neglected, or cheated. This is the anger of man. It is not, however, the anger of God.

God doesn't get angry because he doesn't get his way. He gets angry because disobedience always results in self-destruction. What kind of father sits by and watches his child hurt himself?

What kind of God would do the same? Do we think he giggles at adultery or snickers at murder? Do you think he looks the other way when we produce television talk show based on perverse pleasures? Does he shake his head and say, "Humans will be humans"?

I don't think so. Mark it down and underline it in red. God is rightfully angry. God is a holy God. Our sins are an affront to his holiness. His eyes "are too good to look at evil; [he] cannot stand to see those who do wrong" (Habakkuk 1:13).

God is angry at the evil that ruins his children.

The question is not, "How dare a loving God be angry?" but rather, "How could a loving God feel anything less?" (Max Lucado)

Prayer:

We are currently preparing to help facilitate a team going to **Madera** this summer to work in several areas: VBS, Facilities work, Youth Outreach (Sports camps), Medical services, Music, and Moving Pastor Juan Carlos & his family. Please pray for us as we make preparations.

Our baby is due to be born soon; thanks for supporting us in Prayer when you think of us! (**Susie, Timothy, Josiah, & The New Little One!**)

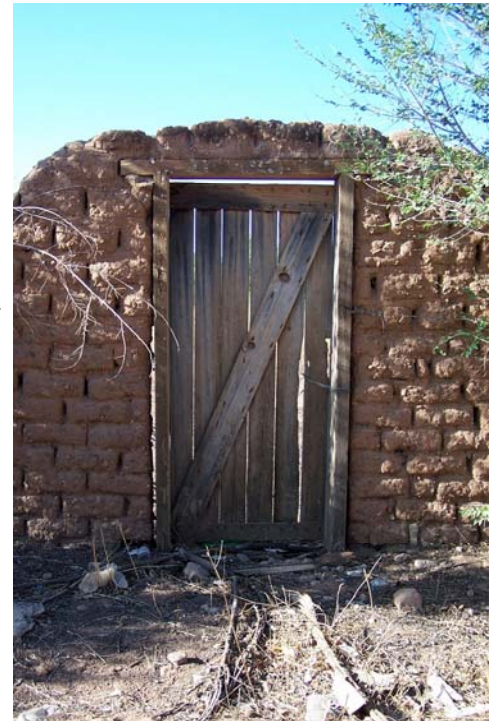
Rob just returned from making a visit to the **Navajo Nation** with a team from **H.E.L.P. International**; delivering more relief supplies (tons of food and clothing) in the wake of the severe weather recently in the region. (They've been overwhelmed with snow several times this season.)

Pray for wisdom and confirmation — that we only pursue the areas of ministry which God has ordained for us to be involved in.

Pray that we would be excellent stewards of every **resource and relationship** God gives us.

From Leviticus 25:35-38 (based on The Message)

If one of your brothers is indigent and cannot support himself, help him, the same as you would a **foreigner or a guest** so that he too may know my provision (and you may be blessed in being **my hands** of provision). Don't gouge him with interest charges; out of reverence for your God help your brother to continue to live as comfortably as possible. Don't take advantage of his plight by running up big interest charges on his loans, and don't give him food for profit. **I am your God who saves you from misery** and gives you everything you have and am with you; revealing my glory to you and **transforming** you!



WHO WE ARE...

Shine On Mexico, a Colorado based DBA subsidiary of Hands Across The Border, Inc., is a 501(c)(3) non-profit interdenominational ministry that seeks to glorify God by strengthening and networking out-reaching ministries. Our mission is to come along side and assist other ministries in Mexico (starting in western Chihuahua State); encouraging and equipping them to reach out both within and beyond their own communities; fostering unity, and empowering the existing ministries to fulfill their role in the transformation we believe God is bringing to the region.

With a focus on working with ministries in some of the smaller and often overlooked communities, we intend to accomplish our mission by:

- **Strengthening pastors and ministry leaders** by providing materials, encouragement, teaching, training, networking, and in some cases financial support so that they can be more **effective in reaching and discipling their communities**.
- Supporting **Evangelism** by sharing different outreach methods and materials; **encouraging, and equipping churches and ministries for outreach; working with them to unify and coordinate their efforts**; promoting and assisting with evangelistic gatherings like tent meetings, weekly support groups, men's gatherings, women's gatherings, and family events which are (for the most part) overseen by the ministries in the community.
- Bringing new means of support for ministry by presenting and fostering **"tent making" business opportunities for the indigenous ministry leaders** and their associates so that they may have more opportunities to impact their community.
- Coordinating **teams to help with construction** of churches, albergues (boarding homes for school children), children's homes, and other ministry facilities already in the region (connecting available helpers to invest in projects of eternal benefit).
- **Networking** the needs and abilities of the churches and ministries in Mexico with available resources from ministries, organizations, individuals, and business in the US.
- Assisting with providing physical and spiritual provision for those in need (orphans, widows, handicapped, elderly, thirsty, sick, hungry, lonely, ...) -- **Mt 25:40**.

Some scripture to review:

Here are some passages which I have been looking at recently in regards to considering our place in The Kingdom as a ministry: **Ps 27, 74:21, 138, 139, 140; Levit 19:33-34, 25:35-38; Mt 5:8, 25:15; Ex 22:21; Deut 10:17-19; Is 53; 1 Cor 12:7; 2 Cor 8:4, 10:13; 1 Pet2:9, 4:10-11; 2 Tim 1:6; Acts 6:1-4; Gal 6:4; Eph 3:14-19; Ro 12:2; Ex 23:11; James.** (Confidence, Purpose, Uncommon, Pure heart, Caring, Glorifying God, Uniquely Equipped, Generous, Consider the work He has begun, The Body, Devoted in Love, Surrendered, First-fruits, Pure, Faith, Deeds, Wisdom, Humble, Powerful, Effective)

Here are some passages on Missions: **Ge 12:1-4; Col 4:2-6; Mt 9:35-38; 1Cor 3:6-9; Ps 4:8; Pr 3:5-6; 2Cor 7:14; Zech 4:6; 1Thes 5:23-24; Is 33:6.** (Bless All, Prayer opens doors, Compassion, God's work, Only True Security, His direction, Healing, His Spirit, Sure Foundation)

Here are a few passages regarding God's Word for us: **Ps 119:105 & 130; Is 55:11; Mk 4; Ro 10:17; Mt 12:34; Eph 5:26; Heb 4:12; 2Tim 3:16, 17.** (Light, Understanding, Effective, Seed, Faith, His Heart, Cleansing, Sharp sword, Equipping.)

Shine On Mexico is a non-profit organization
All donations are tax deductible.

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Shine On Mexico, which previously operated under the aegis of Shekinah Christian Ministries, has recently merged with *Hands Across The Border, Inc.*, founded by *Ms. Judy Sprague* of Loveland, CO.