

the LANTERN



First Presbyterian Church, Las Cruces, NM

August 2016





Youth Mission Trip



Alex Burr

On July 9 three vans containing 25 youth and 7 advisors left Las Cruces for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation on the southern border of South Dakota. The first day they approached Denver where they stopped for the night at the Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church in Northglenn, CO. The next day the trip continued on, arriving that evening in Porcupine, SD, which is about 15 miles north of US18 over relatively unimproved roads.

And the work started the next morning. It was varied, to say the least. It included cleaning-up trash, mowing lawns, building a deck, repairing buildings and houses, and even interacting with kids. The schedule, tools, materials, and instructions were provided by TEAMEffort.

TEAMEffort is an inter-denominational Christian organization, located in Florida, which operates and schedules youth workcamps in over 20 locations all across the United States. It makes it easy for churches to provide a useful, educational, and fun experience to the youth of a church/

All was not work, Meaningful worship services were held. There were interesting interactions with the people being helped, and even with a group from a small Chinese church which was also working there. The last day even included an interesting visit to Mt. Rushmore.

The end of the trip was the long drive back to Las Cruces with an overnight stop at the Monument Community Presbyterian Church in Monument, CO.

More information about this experience can be found in the following article, on the Facebook page of our church (<https://www.facebook.com/First-Presbyterian-Church-Las-Cruces-NM-273381375466/>) and on (<http://www.teameffort.org/>), the web site of TEAMEffort.

Sioux Nation Mission Trip

Elizabeth Loman

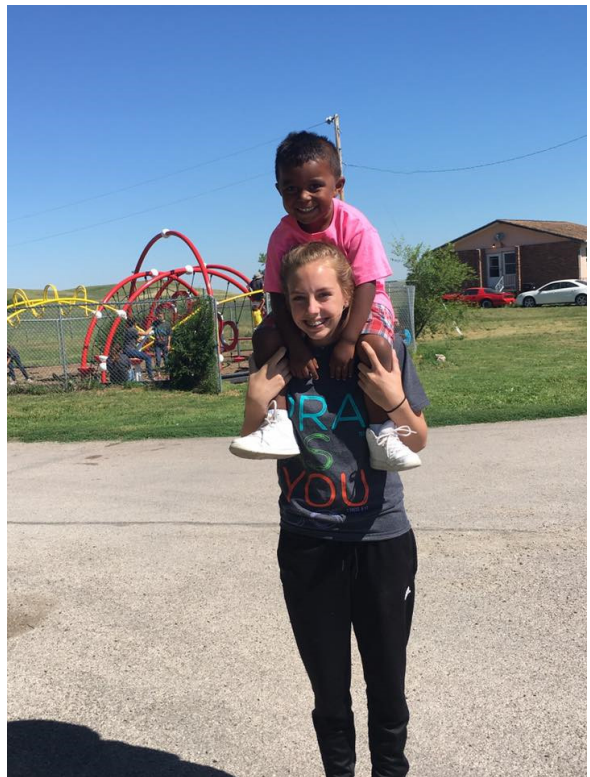
At the end of last month, the First Presbyterian youth group, both middle school and high school, returned from South Dakota, where they had been building houses and porches for the people of the Sioux Nation with an organization called TEAMEffort. While it was an exhausting trip, it was also very uplifting; and, as mission trips are supposed to do, it got me thinking.

I had never really understood just how lucky I am until I met these people. Most had only just received running water in their homes, a luxury I have never lived without. They had also only just received electricity in their homes as well, something I have

never done without. But so many had never really understood God or His love: they had barely heard His name, and that made me sad. I never understood the struggle these people have gone through. I was born and raised in the Church, and while I might hear the occasional story or see the occasional movie about the struggle some have gone through to worship, I'd never really seen it up close and personal.

The Lakota people hold on to their old traditions with a very tight grip, and because of mistreatment in the past, they are very distrustful of Christians. The Red Cloud Indian School stands as a testament to that. When the school, a large brick building that is now a museum, was first built, it was meant to Christianize the Lakota. Children were forced into Western garb and forced to learn English, when most of these children had never seen a book in their lives. They were beaten for speaking their native language, for speaking of tribal traditions, for basically anything that seemed too Lakota. For many, that wound is still fresh. These people were basically told "God loves you" while being smacked with a stick. The Lakota distrust God because they don't know what he stands for. They stick to their tribal traditions, and anyone who does not, anyone who begins to believe anything else, is instantly shunned. They are accused of abandoning their heritage, their family, and their ideals. Imagine your entire city hating you because you believed something different than what they believe.

That's not to say they disliked us. There were several instances on this trip when they touched me in ways I really can't explain. There was a woman I was helping to clean up her yard. It was a hot day, and my water bottle heated up quickly. The woman sent her granddaughter out into the yard with cold water for me and the other kids I was working with. Once those had been distributed, the little girl and occasionally her siblings came out and played with us. They got into a water fight with several of us, and one little girl picked up a stick, declared herself my body-guard, and proceeded to guard me from unexpected waterfalls. That same day, a toddler came out into the yard, following her older sister, but got stuck behind a wall and started to cry. I asked her if she was okay and she walked up to me, held up her arms, and gave me this big smile as I picked her up and over the fence. For most of the week, however, I was helping another family re-side their house. Their little boy came out to the back and watched us. Shy at first, he warmed up to us when we started playing with him, helping him dig little holes with our shovels, having measuring tape races, and giving him piggyback rides. By the last day, he was laughing and joking with us, showing us his awesome climbing skills.



This trip really opened my eyes. It also uplifted me, knowing that God chose me for this mission trip, to let me see how others live so I could more deeply explore my own relationship with Him. It wasn't pretty, but now I know it isn't pretty and can start fixing that problem. I thank God that I was able to have this amazing experience.



Congregational Photographs

A new photographic congregational directory will be published. Photographs will be taken during two weekends. The first will be September 23 and 24. The second will be September 30 and October 1. Each day will have over eight hours to schedule appointments, so it should be easy to pick a convenient time. Although a professional photographer will be used to take the pictures, there is a lot of congregational effort which has to go into making this directory. It is estimated that as many as 30 volunteers will be needed. The congregational Life and Outreach Support team will be asking for volunteers.

The calendar for the month.

AUGUST 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 9:00 AM Adult SS in Jones Library 9:00 AM Elem. SS/rm. 208 Branigan Hall 10:30 AM FPC Worship 10:30 AM Koren Worship 10:30 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall Chapel 11:30 AM Reeves Hall in use	1	2 10:00 AM Prayer group/Parlor 2:15 PM Emmaus/Parlor	3 9:00 AM Quilting group	4	5	6
7 10:30 AM FPC & La Iglesia Worship - Communion Sunday 10:30 AM Koren Worship 11:30 AM Reeves Hall in use	8	9 9:45 AM Mary Martha Circle in the Library 2:15 PM Emmaus/Parlor 7:00 PM Team meetings: Admin., B&G, CE, CL&OS, Missions, M&W	10 9:00 AM Quilting group	11	12	13
14 10:30 AM FPC Worship - BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS 10:30 AM Koren Worship 10:30 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall Chapel 11:30 AM Reeves Hall in use	15 Public Schools start 1:30 PM Roadrunner Food Distribution in Watkins/Reeves	16 10:00 AM Prayer group/Parlor 2:15 PM Emmaus/Parlor 7:00 PM Session mtg. in the Library	17	18 7:00 PM Deacons mtg in the Library	19 4:30 PM White Sands trip picnic & fun in the sand/leave at 4:30 from the church	20
21 10:30 AM FPC Worship 10:30 AM Koren Worship 10:30 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall Chapel 11:30 AM Reeves Hall in use	22	23 10:00 AM Prayer group/Parlor 2:15 PM Emmaus/Parlor	24 9:00 AM Quilting group	25	26 InBetweeners in Watkins/Reeves	27
28 10:30 AM FPC Worship 10:30 AM Koren Worship 10:30 AM Spanish Worship in Jones Hall Chapel 11:30 AM Reeves Hall in use	29	30 10:00 AM Prayer group/Parlor 2:15 PM Emmaus/Parlor	31 9:00 AM Quilting group	1 6:30 PM Jennie Curry Bible Study/Library	2	3

Korean Dinner After Church Every Sunday

Cliff Olsson

Our Korean congregation has a full Korean dinner after every service, and there is a definite reason why. Some time ago around the early 1980's, a Korean pastor in the U.S. wanted to provide a way for members of the Korean Community to have a forum to eat, socialize and network. Given that most Koreans work 6-days a week and that most have their own businesses to run, this made good sense. Interestingly, this new practice is not a tradition in Korea, such as bowing before greeting someone or addressing others by title instead of their name. The larger Korean churches even go further by also providing other activities after dinner, so the entire day is church, dinner, socialization, networking and sometimes hold evening service as well, even another meal and more socialization and other activities. This differs markedly from our American church counterparts that have after-church fellowship with coffee and snacks only.

Our Korean dinner every Sunday consists of hot steamed rice (combination mixture), plenty of Kimchi (spicy Korean vegetables with cayenne pepper and other spices), usually a hot meat dish (gogi) and other Korean side dishes. We have a fairly good variety of food types and most non-Koreans really like a good Korean meal, especially the Kimchi (that has quite a few varieties). We have had several people join us for dinner from First Presbyterian Church already, and everyone so far has greatly enjoyed the Korean flavor and variation of our dinners.

The location First Presbyterian Church has provided our Korean congregation for services and for after-church dinner in Reeves Hall is ideal, with more than ample space and facilities. We have a perfect forum for after church dinner and social time with networking as needed. In fact, we have most of our meetings informally during and right after our church dinner. These dinners are very informal and start after the service at about 11:30.

One of the mutual goals of both of our congregations is to become better and more closely integrated, and one way of accomplishing this is to attend and share in events and meals when possible. We urge anyone, who would like to come, to join us any Sunday. Just come by, sample a good meal, and learn more about this congregation.



The Congregation Life and Outreach Support Ministry has prepared a tentative list of special events for the rest of the year. It is given below for your reference.

Date	Event	Time	Place	Description/notes
June 19	Father's Day	Fellowship hour	Outside Jones	Celebrate dads, cake during fellowship hour, hosted by Mary Martha circle
July 3	Ice cream social	After worship	Outside Jones	Celebrate ice cream; might make homemade ice cream, lots of toppings
July 25-29	Vacation Bible school	Mornings		
Aug 14	Blessing of backpacks	Worship	Sanctuary	Deacons event supported by CLOS
Aug, Friday	White Sands	Evening	White Sands monument	Picnic and fun in the sand
Sept 11	Bibles for 3 rd and 6 th graders	Worship	Sanctuary	CE coordinates, Bibles to youngsters
Sept 23,24,30, and Oct1	Church directory photos	Fridays: 11 am -8 pm and Saturdays 9 am -5 pm	Jones Hall	Members and family, friends of the church, regular attendees, all 3 congregations, etc. get family photos taken for an updated church directory.
Sept, date TBD	Family hike	Morning	TBD	Local hike
Oct 31	Trunk or Treat	6 – 8 pm	Front and parking lot	Outreach to local community
Dec 4	Soup and games	After worship	Fellowship hall	CLOS makes soup for the congregation and we play board games or card games

The Cover

This cross was given to Ann Velia by her niece.
The small photo here shows the reverse side,



Photographs provided by Alex Burr and Jamie Gill

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**Photos for Directory
Sept 23,24,30, Oct 1**

Vision Statement

To be a place where Christian love is modeled

Mission Statement

To be a place where Christian love is modeled through:

1. Understanding, celebrating, and sharing God's Word.
2. Following obediently where God is leading us
3. Leading, nurturing, and serving our community for Christ