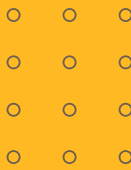


# TRC Ministries

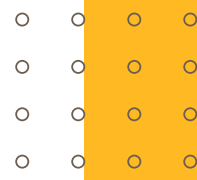
## GOD OPENS NEW DOORS IN MEXICO

*Letter from Hector Avila, co-founder of "La Cosecha"*

Before the pandemic began, I started working with a friend, going inside the prison, visiting the men and women here in our country. Here in Mexico, prisons are very different than other places. The spiritual need in the prisons here is great. Men and women are very open and want to see something different in their lives. They want to experience the love of God and see how He can make a difference in their personal lives.

I remember when I was in prison. I wanted to be someone different but I didn't know how to do it until God used Dave Schonberg. One day, Dave brought me the good news of salvation. It was the best day of my life. That day God showed me His love and how much He cared about me and for all those who are lost.

Last year we looked for a way to bring Bibles to the brothers and sisters inside of prisons... *Cont. reading on pg. 6*



## Newsletter Highlights

**Stirring Hearts in Sri Lanka (pg 2)**

**Hope for Sthembiso (pg 3)**

**Kalon Prep Academy Reports Many Blessings (pg 4)**

**Addict Freed From Sin Serves God in La Cosecha (pg 5)**

**Community Kids Corner (pg 5)**

**Visit our website**  
[regenerationcenter.org](http://regenerationcenter.org)



## STIRRING HEARTS IN SRI LANKA

On December 3rd, 15 people were baptized into the church in Sri Lanka.

Praise God for these new believers!

Despite severe economic hardships, Pastor Sathees Kumar's church was able to host a Children's Outreach Christmas Program. 272 children attended and the church was able to present each of them with a gift, thanks to generous donations.

They also put on a Children's Program for their own church on December 10th. Around 140 children participated.

We appreciate your faithful support, both with prayer and financial giving, as leaders in Sri Lanka continue to point people to Christ and provide a safe place for believers to worship.



## A Message of Hope

As the year comes to a close, it's natural to reflect on all that the last 12 months have entailed. For many people, it has been a hard year. Whether suffering loss or financial difficulties due to economic hardship, there are struggles around every corner.

Jesus was well-aware of these struggles. "In this world you will have trouble," he said. "But take heart! I have overcome the world." As Christians, we have the confidence of knowing the One who has conquered not only the world, but death itself. Let's celebrate that hope this holiday season!

# HOPE FOR STHEMBISO

*Marv & Marie Bjorklund, Place of Hope Africa*

It does not matter where we are or what is going on, it is always a time to be thankful to the Lord for what He has brought us through and where we are today. A question we are frequently asked is, "What is happening with Sthembiso?" Because of the backlog of cases, our court date is not until January 2023. Continue with us in prayer as the date approaches.

Sthembiso also celebrated his 10th birthday in October! As the 2022 school year is coming to a close, we have a decision to make. Should we enroll Sthembiso for the 2023 year or should we strictly home school? The "Christian" tutor school he currently attends has become a disappointment to us, and we have decided not to send him next year.

Longing for a bit of a much-needed break, we decided that regardless of the weather we would take a few days. Between the rain showers we ran down to the rocks with the breakers on the beach. Our place was just across the road from the ocean, and we had the view and the wonderful sound of the crashing waves!

There is also a house available on a property with a church, school, and cluster homes to be used as a home for babies.

In December a board will meet to determine if they will donate funds to repair the house. This would bring the possibility of a place to relocate to and for the two younger couples we have helping us to begin taking over.

Our van, the never-ending saga! What should have been done to get the engine back in, is not getting finished because the workers do not come to work.

We are praying that our paperwork goes through for Sthembiso's adoption and passport and also for a trip to the states to visit. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all you who uphold us in prayer. It is the most important resource we have. Your continued financial support keeps our ministry going and we appreciate all who continue to bless our children.

**Our PO Boxes have been removed!**

**If you would like to send us mail, please use PO Box 50, Hilton 3245 South Africa**

## *Praise & Prayer*

- *The Lord is forever faithful! His love endures forever*
- *For a break, as short as it was*
- *Marv's hip surgery went great*
- *We all have the opportunity to make the decision to accept Jesus*

- For permanent residency to be granted in our appeal to the higher courts
- Guidance after court results
- For Marie's parents moving to assisted living
- A decision on a place to relocate
- Wisdom on the best place for Sthembiso's schooling

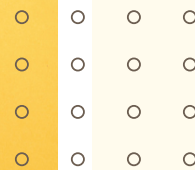
# What's So Great About Salvation?



Join Tory Bjorklund as he looks at the interactive nature of salvation and answers the question, what does it mean to be saved?

The final episode of this 7-part series is available now on our website or wherever you listen to podcasts.

[regenerationcenter.org](http://regenerationcenter.org)



## Are you online?

So are we! You can follow us on Facebook and Instagram, or you can visit our website at [regenerationcenter.org](http://regenerationcenter.org) and sign up to receive regular email updates delivered right to your inbox every month.



## KALON PREP ACADEMY REPORTS

### MANY BLESSINGS

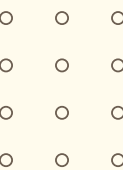
*Letter by Chris Kragenbring, School Director*

21 of 26 seniors graduated in May with a beautiful outdoor celebration. Two more finished their requirements during summer school, and one student will finish by December 31. Two students came back as super seniors and will graduate with the class of 2023.

Year #2 launched with 140 students (33 more than the end of the 2021-22 school year) and 5 additional staff members. During a national teacher shortage, we were able to fill all positions! The school acquired 11,000 additional square feet (former Harvest Church space) which provided mental health offices, a kitchen, an auditorium and 2 classrooms.

This past fall Kalon students journeyed to Camp Ripley for a team building event hosted by the National Guard, attended a college fair hosted by New Testament Church, had a motivational speaker named Terrence Talley on campus thanks to Kevin Taylor of REACH church, traveled to UMM for a science summit and were on open line to discuss their Lake Henry/Lake Agnes study. Students also enjoyed a fun fall party with a costume contest and pumpkin decorating thanks to a donation from Hoffman's Produce.

Kalon has received numerous donations from generous individuals, businesses, churches and a successful BINGO fundraiser to support food needs, mental health support and celebrations such as prom, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving dinner on campus. Thank you to all who continue to support our students.



## Community Kids Corner

Psalm 136 includes 26 statements each ending with the consistent phrase, "His love endures forever."

Consistency. Faithfulness. The ripple effect, over time, can erode lakeshore. We are finding that with steady, positive support, the drop in the bucket provided at Community Kids can also erode. The more positive word would be *erase*. The input from our Community Kids program can help erase negative patterns created in an environment of poverty and instability. Many of our now adult Community Kids point toward CK as a steadfast example of an encouraging, positive force in their lives: an agent of change. That's an interesting thought; consistency for change. Erode the negative effects. Erase the harmful patterns. Enduring change created.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good

His love endures forever."

Psalm 136:1

Thank you for your consistent prayers and support for Community Kids.

~Rita Lotti

## ADDICT FREED FROM SIN NOW COMMITTED TO SERVING GOD



Alberto is a young man from Ensenada, Baja California who arrived at La Cosecha a year and a half ago, a slave to addiction. During his time there, God gave him grace so that his heart was softened toward the Gospel, and he recognized his need for Jesus Christ.

Today, he not only continues in his rehabilitation but is a support for the work of "La Cosecha." He has been helping with the care and supervision of the new young people who come to be rehabilitated.

We thank God that he has decided to make a commitment to serve us for one more year at La Cosecha, and we are filled with joy because we know only a grateful heart and one full of God's love can "give from Grace what it has received from Grace." And this is how Alberto's heart is: grateful to God for saving him and giving him a new life in Him.

# GOD OPENS NEW DOORS IN MEXICO

*continued*

We believe in God and we know that His love is for all. We have a vision and a mission that God gave us which we want to obey and accomplish.

This year we started to work with an association that focuses on bringing Bibles and Bible studies into prison for our brothers and sisters. We believe God wants us to make sure there is a Bible in every prison in Mexico and that men and women will have the opportunity to know Him. Here in Oaxaca, we hope to be able to open a program that will prepare men and women for the Christian life so they will be ready to live a different life when they are released, and so they will be able to bring the Good News of salvation to others.

One of the goals is to prepare leaders inside the prison to be able to teach others. As you know, a lot of things since the beginning of the pandemic have changed. We have to do things in a different way. For us that means raising up leaders inside prison walls.



We would like to thank Prison Fellowship for the help with the Bibles they sent to our ministry, and also to all the brothers and sisters that have a heart for our brothers and sisters in prison here in Mexico. We also want you to be part of this vision. We need more Bibles for all those in prison. We need to share the love of Christ and to teach others that God sent His Son to die for us and to pay for our sins.

## SEMBRANDO PALABRA DE LIBERTAD

*"Sowing the Word of Freedom"*

### MISSION

- to develop relationships with churches, other ministries and correctional facilities
- to provide Bibles and discipleship resources to every jail and prison in Mexico where there is an open door.

### VISION

- to love and care for the church and individuals both inside and outside of jails and prisons
- to value the Word of God, the Bible, as the primary vehicle for communicating God's love, character, and plan for humanity to be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ
- to pursue our mission with excellence and a sense of urgency.

# BLANKETS OF LOVE

Who would have imagined that an inmate's request for "blankets of love" for her children at Christmas would be the beginning of hundreds of Blankets of Love being shared to communicate the love of Jesus? The desire of that mama's heart was a seed that has borne good fruit in Douglas County Jail, several local communities and organizations, and around the country for the last 12 years. The blessings are not just restricted to those receiving blankets, but seem to fall on everyone involved!

Christmas is a difficult time for inmates, but one thing they look forward to is the opportunity to make fleece-tied blankets for loved ones. They can also choose an age-appropriate Bible, devotional, or other book, a Thrivent shirt, as well as write a card. Each blanket is embroidered with the recipient's name and the message "You are never alone, Psalm 139."

When the principal at Kalon Prep Academy asked if we would consider "blanketing" their 140 students this Christmas, dozens of volunteers spent hundreds of hours to make the daunting task a reality. Even a handful of adults in custody, who agreed that a place like Kalon could have kept them out of jail, rallied in the spirit of Christmas to make a dozen blankets for the students. Each blanket was embroidered with the reminder "You are never alone."

Does it get much better than hearing that a 9 year-old granddaughter under adverse conditions fell asleep immediately after wrapping up in her new blanket? Or spotting a Kalon student crossing Broadway to go to work, wrapped in his blanket? Or seeing a student return to school in January wrapped in the blanket she received in December? Or



receiving thank you notes and having a student say she loves the blanket she received a few years ago from her dad while he was incarcerated? Or praying on the phone with the mother of an inmate who participated in the Blankets of Love program, and who thanked me and told me this could be her last Christmas because she had stage 4 cancer, and then praying again? Or having a young mom wrap her arms around me, lay her head on my shoulder, and weep when we met in a store to exchange her son's blanket?

Why do we do this? To share God's love with people of all ages who need to know they are loved, seen, and not forgotten. Blankets of Love is an ongoing program that is in need of help and support year round. If you are interested in helping tangibly or financially, please email [dhoffman@regenerationcenter.org](mailto:dhoffman@regenerationcenter.org).

Thank you to all who have played a part in blanketing people with love—it couldn't have happened without you!



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