

# May Missions News



## Wholistic Mission

Meeting basic human needs is inextricably linked with the gospel, just as it was in Jesus' ministry. Sometimes social concern is a consequence of evangelism; sometimes it is a bridge to evangelism. At other times social action accompanies evangelism and church planting as an integrated activity.

A word of dynamic balance in wholistic mission comes from missiologist Stephen Hoke:

*Asking, "Which is more important, evangelism or social action?" is a misleading question. Over the last generation it has led Westerners to spend fruitless years trying to analyze and rank which is more important. A more biblical approach, derived from studying the life of Jesus, would be to ask, "What comes first, evangelism or social action?" In Jesus' day, the question would have been*

*phrased, "What did Jesus do first, evangelism or minister to physical needs?"*

*And the obvious answer is "Both" or "It depends." Sometimes Jesus healed the sick, sometimes He preached the gospel of the Kingdom. We usually see Him doing both. With the vision of complete personal and community transformation in view, Jesus did what the situation demanded. He always dealt directly with the presenting problem, be it physical or spiritual. When the sick asked for help, Jesus healed them. When people engaged Him in spiritual conversation, Jesus led them to make a decision about who He was. He never skirted the issue. He never changed the subject to move to more spiritual matters.*

*So, in response to the question, "What did Jesus do first?" we can only respond, "It depends on the situation." Similarly today, in response to the question, "Which comes first, evangelism or social action?" we must respond with humility and honesty, "It depends on what the situation demands." When among unreached peoples a Christian is asked about Jesus, he or she may find it appropriate to share the gospel story in the context of their personal experience. There are many situations among unreached peoples where the only door open to Christians is to offer hope in the form of emergency relief or long-term community development. We can step eagerly and lovingly through these doors to establish a bridge for future relationship and hopefully effective evangelism.*

*Because God is in control and engineers the opening and closing of cultural and political doors, we can feel free and confident to respond as Jesus would, without having to worry about which is more important. They both are. The real issue is timing and appropriate communication. So we follow Jesus' lead and respond as He would.*

## **Mission Trip Opportunities**

**Puerto Rico:** Building Team going to PR **August 3-10**. The project will be to complete a community center for a church in a lower end neighborhood. The need is for a couple of additional people (with building skills or who like to paint or be willing to help a builder) to join a Building Team from Texas in Puerto Rico. If interested, please contact **Howard Waller** (Vision Puerto Rico) directly at **303-587-4028**.

**Cross Bar X Youth Ranch, Durango, Colorado:** CBX has scheduled their work week, **June 14-18**, to prepare the facilities for summer campers. This is a family event for all ages. Each day there will be morning fun activities for younger kids not able to work with adults around the camp. The work will consist of general maintenance such as indoor/outdoor painting, cleaning windows, housekeeping, light bulb replacement, yard work and other maintenance needs as skills exist. Lodging and meals will be provided by CBX. We may be asked to help with the cooking and kitchen duties.

Each person will be responsible for their own bed linens, towels, and soap. There will be an opportunity to contribute to the cost of food at the week's end.

Laura and I will be making the trip. Anyone or any families interested in getting more information on this week should contact:

**Dennis Hamilton**, BVC Deacon Board Member

Cell: **517-403-8401**

Email: [dennishamilton12754@gmail.com](mailto:dennishamilton12754@gmail.com)

## ***Moving the World One Grant at a Time***

During the month of April the Move the World Team granted three requests in the amount of **\$17,500!** (*You can watch this number increase each month on the Bear Valley Church website Missions page*).

Through your continued generosity the Team granted monies to Albania to assist with the construction of a Christian Camp site; to New Life in Christ Church to assist with their summer camp for underprivileged children in the Lakewood area and to the Coalition for Sexual Offense Restoration in order to help with housing costs.

## **BVC Mission Connect**

### **Mission 98**

Come meet the new Executive Director of Mission 98, Fred Elliott-Hart, and hear more about their ministry and ways you can get involved.

**Sunday, May 16 at 10:30am in Room 205.**