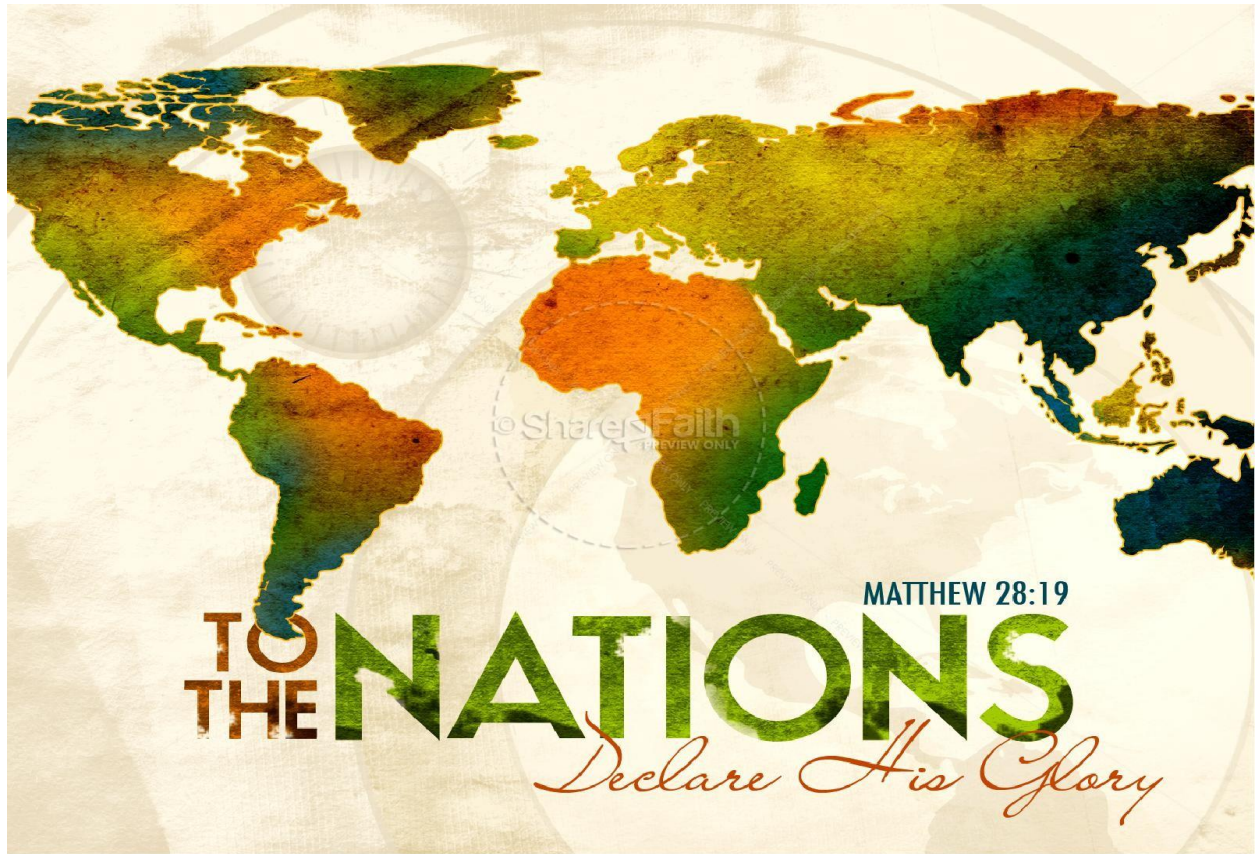


NORTHWEST COC INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH NEWSLETTER

July 10, 2020 | Volume 1, Issue 2



Greetings! Welcome to the second edition of our NWCOC international missionary outreach newsletter. The purpose of our newsletter is to provide you with updates from around the world regarding our NWCOC missionary outreach efforts. It is no doubt we are living in unprecedented times with COVID-19. Uncertainty is the predominant word and fear runs rampant. Yet our God is big and all-powerful. We believe God desires to see a genesis of gospel growth on the other side of this crisis like the world has never seen. Now is our time to pray and prepare. This edition highlights who/where our missionaries are around the world, comments from our missionaries, and NW International Outreach POCs, FAQs. We are so very thankful for the special contribution in May where the church gave \$85,304.00 and for allowing us to continue to serve and support our missionaries. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" 1 Chronicles 16:24. Please allow us to introduce our missionaries across the globe:

**Missionaries/Locations:**



Missionaries	Location
Orlando & Nora Carrillo	Coatzintia, Vera Cruz, Mexico
Mateo & Martina Vasquez	Ocosinco, Chiapas, Mexico
Claudia Hernandez Salas	Rosita, Mexico
Jacob & Justina Achinefu	Nigeria
Cliff & Nkiru Jarrell	Port Harcourt, Nigeria
Chris & Melinda Miller	New Zealand
Jon & Gina Murrell and Family	Cebu City, Philippines

### Thoughts/Comments from Around the World:

Chris and Melinda Miller- "Greetings again from New Zealand. Well we are now at level 1 here with the Coronavirus which means we are back to some normality if there is such a thing at the moment. We did not have any cases for about 19 days until two overseas travelers came in and somehow slipped through the system and we have had some other cases since then too. So, we will see what our Prime minister decides to do. We also see the unrest around the world, and we pray that God bring good from all this chaos. Please keep our work and ministry and my shepherding role both at Otumoetai and the broader ministry to other congregations in your prayers as we have not been able to travel and we cannot see this happening in the near future. Thank you again for your love and support of us through all season and especially through this turbulent season we are all in. This means so much to us. We pray for you all and your congregations."

Cliff & Nkiru Jarrell- "Praises for the Jarrell family's recovery from typhoid fever. They do house church on Sunday evenings with Jeff and Carolyn (college roomie). They are learning how to be active disciples of Christ together, set goals to share our faith with lost friends and pray in addition to our study. Document authentication is delayed/backlogged. We cannot apply for visas without these documents. Please pray that our documents are filtered to the top of the pile! All Glory to God for His sovereignty and timing. We trust Him and will continue in the work He's given us here in the meantime. Thank you all for your generosity and investment in our work. Last week we read about the Lord's Supper in Luke and Carolyn prepared foods that are symbolic of what we read in scripture."

Orlando & Nora Carrillo – "For much of May and June we could not visit the homes of unconverted families. The federal and local government asked us to stay home due to COVID19. Most families do not want to receive visitors. The church continues to meet in small groups for the celebration of worship each Sunday. On Thursdays we also continue to meet for Bible study. Thank God for the continual construction of the worship building; was able to use some of the special contribution dollars for doors and windows (10 windows and 2 doors) in church. We continue to support our sister Hermelinda. Our brothers in Huejutla are meeting in homes. Our Alamo brothers are meeting at home. The meeting room they loaned us remains closed until the government removes these restrictions. In the cities of Tuxpan, Poza Rica, Alamo and Tihuatlan the entrances and exits are very restricted. Some brothers have migrated to other cities because of the coronavirus contingency. Thank God my sister-in-law is here with us and is helping. We ask for your prayers for the health of our sister Nory, her situation is very delicate. We ask for your prayers for our sister Alma. She gave birth to a son in the middle of June. Thank you for the financial support you give us each month. God bless you. Thank you for all your prayers that comfort us during so much uncertainty."

Jon & Gina Murrell and Family- "Howdy from the Philippines. I hope this letter finds you well. As you know, the whole world has been going through some major changes due to the Covid-19 situation and the Philippines is no different. Our city has been under different levels of "Community Quarantine" and "Social Distancing" throughout all this, ever since early March. Currently, because of the high number of positive cases in the city, the level of community quarantine is high. Even with all this going on, our family is doing well. Everyone is healthy and bored being stuck at home. The kids have not been out of the house since March and are understandably stir crazy. I just asked my wife how long it has been exactly since they have left the house and she said 100 days straight and counting. As far as the work at the Bible Study Center (BSC) goes it has been slow as it considered nonessential. We have resorted to having small group classes at individual's homes or classes online using Skype or Zoom or through chat programs and email. All of these have their pros and cons, but the Gospel continues to be spread and that is what matters to us. At times it is discouraging because we are limited by the government in what we can and cannot do, we do the best we

can and take every opportunity to reach out to our community. Our Sunday gatherings are also limited to either small groups of no more than 10 people or online assemblies using the Zoom program and Facebook live. Even with the restrictions everyone still gets to see each other even though they cannot travel across town to be together with the family. It is not ideal, but it is better than nothing. Seeing everyone each week and giving and receiving encouragement is always good to keep everyone's spirits up. Please continue to keep all our brethren in your prayers as we struggle through this challenging time. While there are not many that are affected directly by the virus there is a number that lives nearby those who are. For instance, we found out yesterday that there are two positive cases on our street only a few houses down from our apartment. We are not the only members of the Lord's kingdom who are in this type of situation. We must be vigilant and take precautions but ultimately, we must trust God that his will be done in all things. Once again, we cannot thank God enough for you and all you do for our family and the work here in Cebu. Thank you so much for all that you do. It is really encouraging to us to know that we have family on the other side of the world who are praying for us and have our back if the need arises. May the Lord continually bless you in everything you endeavor to do in life. "For this is the love for God, that we might keep his commands, and his commands are not difficult." - 1 John 5:3"

Mateo & Martina Vasquez- "Mayan Church of Christ Family. Please pray for 5 new believers that came to Jesus in late May and our missionary there in Chiapas. The Vasquez family is serving 15 local village churches and preaching every week on local radio."

### **Team Northwest Walks for Water**

The last few months have certainly been different. I guess a pandemic will do that. While our lives were impacted in just about every way and church buildings closed, the needs of the world continue. God is still moving us, and his people continue to answer the call. For one day the focus was on clean water.

Team Northwest participated in the World Vision Global 6K for Water on May 16. In the virtual event, the team of forty people walked or ran 6K, the average distance women and children in the developing world walk for water. Teammates walked in their neighborhoods remembering and praying for the child whose picture was pinned to their shirt. They went the distance to help lift the burden from those who endure this daily task. The team received \$3,450 in donations which will help bring 70 children clean water.

Combine this offering of love with the contributions of 21,000 other walkers and runners from across the US and the result is incredible. In one day, everyone doing a small part, 32,000 people will receive lasting clean water! We truly are better together.

Check out Team Northwest celebrating clean water- <https://youtu.be/IQVBdEO3BYg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQVBdEO3BYg&authuser=0>

Lastly, please take a moment as you read this to pray for the Church of Christ India Missions, although we do not support them financially, we pray for our Indian brethren suffering terribly and lacking basic necessities due to the pandemic.

### **Points of Contact:**

John Keller, Elder 210-378-4109

Michael Payne, Ministry Leader International Outreach 213-215-2180

Jake Fortenberry, Ministry Leader for Finances 210-688-3002

**International Outreach Frequently Asked Questions:**

Why are we supporting 7 different works around the world? All these specific people and works have a strong connection to us at NorthWest. We know these missionaries. We have known them for many years and shared in their work. We have seen God and Jesus in these people.

Why are we giving an average of 10,000 for each missionary? We have for most of the life of NorthWest been focused on Going and Sharing the Gospel as God commands. At first it was Mexico and Africa because of special medical mission trips and special connections. Over the years people have asked us for support at different levels and these today are people we all have prayed about and supported each year depending on our budget.

Do we have plans for additional support to our current missionaries? We get new requests very often. We pray and ask for direction from God. We meet with the mission's team and make decisions if this is good for the NorthWest body and as the Elders give us insight and direction. Some ask us for added support each year and we must determine where best to spend the funds we have in the budget.

Do we have plans for additional areas of work? Specific people or causes? Not at this time, the budget has been able to support these in the current plans, but it is limited, and we work on an April to April one year plan.

Do we have agreements with each missionary on salary and objectives? We have great faith in each person we send support to and require them to communicate to us monthly. We have direct full-time leadership / shepherding over two brothers Mateo and Orlando in Mexico. All other missionaries have other sponsoring congregations that direct and shepherd their work. We provide partial support to these other works. We do not have written agreements. We do have specific objectives that the missionary will share with us and that they come visit us for face to face meeting normally every other year. All missionaries came to see us in 2018 or we went to see them face to face.

Do we have plans to discontinue or expand any financial support for specific works? The work with the Sides' in the Czech Republic has been very challenging. This family went there on a 10-year commitment and they have returned to the US in March of 2020. Also, the work in Nigeria is never ending but we plan to review support for Brother Jacob and to Brother Cliff in Nigeria. Both do work that touches the lives of the marginalized and poor in Nigeria. Beyond this, other missionaries have asked us to consider specific needs in their ministry. Additionally, regarding the Davenports, they returned to the US in June 2020 after 8 years of overseas service. We have inserted the link to their final update video. Hard to believe that their season of overseas mission work is over. Your support has been invaluable! They will forever be grateful for your generosity and tangible love over these years.

[Davenport Final Update.mp4](#)

Do we have good communication with each missionary and know how God is blessing the work? All missionaries have email and communicate regularly.

Is God transforming lives at Northwest? Many, many have been to the mission field with the most recent being to Pharr Texas in March 2020 and many more are going each year. Teens, young professionals, middle age and older member have gone and are going every year, and most pay their own way. Doing God's work

does transform our discipleship. The spring medical mission trip to Mexico was canceled and will be rescheduled for the fall subject to COVID19 efforts.

**Way Ahead/Next Volume:**

Please continue to pray for our international outreach missions.

We conducted our first Zoom meeting/Prayer Meeting with Mexico missionaries in June and have another planned for late July.

Next newsletter release Oct 2020 and we are asking for some current pictures of the many people being taught about Jesus around the world.

July Garage Sale to raise money for missionaries/orphans in Chiapas Mexico.