

January 29, 2005

Church of God International Offices
Attn: Men & Women of Action
PO Box 2430
Cleveland, Tenn.

Project: Aqua Prieta Orphanage December 26, 2005- January 1, 2006

Kenny Kincaid and his wife, Vi, teamed up with the Church of God Arizona Men and Women of Action Coordinator Lowell Eversole and other locals to conduct a project in Douglas, Arizona.

While working at the Douglas, Arizona Project Lowell's wife, Virginia and friend Earline Reed visited the Aqua Prieta Orphanage in Sonora, Mexico. What they discovered and reported to Kenny prompted this project in Sonora, Mexico. The Aqua Prieta Orphanage is only five miles from the Douglas, Arizona Church of God.

Upon hearing the report that Virginia and Earline gave Kenny left the Douglas, Arizona project to return home. On the way home he was thinking about what he could do to help this orphanage in Sonora, Mexico. Kenny told me that he is a carpenter - not an office worker or administrator - but he just had to do something. Ya see, God doesn't care what we do for a living but looks closely with a heart of pure compassion and knows better than anyone what goes on inside one's head when one decides to make a difference in the lives of others. By the way: He knows what goes on inside of the orphans' head too, even if the orphan doesn't speak English.

When Kenny arrived home, he and Vi were joined by Randy, Vi's son and Jill, Vi's daughter, they went to work raising funds and goods for a return trip to Sonora. They started building a team of supporters simply by asking for donations and telling about the children at the orphanage who range in age from two to sixteen. He shared with me that there were a total of about forty-eight children housed in the Aqua Prieta Orphanage at the time of the MWOA project in Douglas, Arizona. These forty-eight children only had one book to read. That fact alone inspired Kenny to do something about the situation the children were dealing with on a daily basis.

Kenny asked his Pastor, Perry Mager if he could say a few words about this Men and Women of Action trip he was going to lead. His Pastor said, OK, say what you want. Pastor Mager is no stranger to MWOA and has worked on several projects himself. When Kenny was done talking, Pastor Mager asked if it would be OK if I go to? Kenny said, yes. Don Donovan took time off work to go also.

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The orphanage is run by the Mexican government. According to the General Courier News Paper in Lafayette, Indiana the orphanage is a three-bedroom house that has been converted into an orphanage. They are in the process of building ten block dorms with metal roofs. One is ninety per cent completed and the second of ten is sixty per cent completed according to Kenny. They are building as funds and manpower become available. Presently, they have dirt floors.

Point of contact for the orphanage is Ralph W. Venema. He is Director of Operations and the Field Representative. His address is 253 Dee Rd. Muskegon, Michigan 49444. The office number is 231-798-2426. His cell number is 231-557-2808. The fax number is 231-798-1352.

According to Ralph the goal is to provide house parents for every ten children after the dorms are constructed. This is much like the Church of God Smoky Mountains Children Home in Tennessee.

Men and Women of Action volunteers, Kincaid, Mager and Donovan made the Christmas Project a success by putting their hearts into the gathering of a pick up truck and a sixteen foot long trailer of supplies such as books, shoes, clothing, Bibles and assorted goods that we take for granted in the USA and drove four thousand four-hundred miles round trip to share Jesus and deliver the goods personally.

I think if you would ask Kenny, Perry and Don if it was worth it they would say absolutely, yes.

The needy are easy to find. Kenny found this needy project by working on a Men and Women of Action Project in Douglas, Arizona with Lowell Eversole.

Kenny is a retired carpenter - one of the best I might add. Perry Mager is a farmer in Rosedale, Indiana and the Pastor of Friendly Grove Baptist Church. Don Donovan works for the Agriculture Office in Rockville, Indiana.

“The interesting element is not what they do for a living but what they did for a giving.”

These three men took off their hats of every day life at home and stepped out of the four invisible walls of the church (by the way, wonder who built these four walls?) and delivered God’s love to many children they did not know or for that fact understand.

I believe they call this part of being a Christian, don’t you.

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Only three men went but a support team consisting of Benwood Mount Lebanon Church, Friendly Grove Baptist Church, Hillsboro Nazarene Church, Church of God Veedersburg Ministry Center, Terre Haute Church of God and individual contributors made this a great team effort. It was a team effort that produced a knowledge in the orphans that live at Aqua Prieta of "I know I am loved because you spoke with actions. I do not know your language but your actions speak to my heart."

Kenny and his team are not alone in their concern for these orphans at Aqua Prieta. Jerry Jones has made mission trips to the orphanage for five years. He attends the Phoenix Valley Church of God.

I do not think the children cared about what these men did for a living but rather I think their thoughts were more along the lines of God's goodness and God's care to send messengers of love in the form of a retired carpenter, a farmer and a conservationist.

These men just think they are carpenters, farmers and conservation workers but the children know they are messengers of God's love sent to them. The children may not speak your language but they understand love.

They say love is a universal language. Truly these men - supported by their team - ministered without words. They used action.

I cannot help but think that they were thinking these men must love me to do all of this and not know me or speak my language.

The Men and Women in the logo Men and Women of Action are important. But the last word really put meaning on the entire thing. For without action we would just be talking heads that never accomplish anything but talking.

Talk is cheap and absolutely worthless without action.

Just ask the children at Aqua Prieta Orphanage.

Thank you Kenny, Perry and Don for a ministry of love well done and appreciated.

Thank you Churches, Carpenters Union, and the individuals, who supported this MWOA Project at Aqua Prieta Orphanage in Sonora, Mexico, a short two thousand miles away.

Indiana Coordinator: Men and Women of Action

Jerry (Jake) Crafton