

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!



Saracoff Sentinel/Team Tijuana

Christmas 2012

Farewell to Kenneth Kim, a dear brother in the Lord, who since 2008 has led countless mission trips to Tijuana. He was our connection to an amazing Korean church in the LA area. On Dec 1 he'd planned to bring a group to the Esperanza



women & a children's club downtown, but that very afternoon, God called him Home. He loved to sing & worship God—now he's in heaven's choir. Our loss is his gain; he will be greatly missed!

Latin America Mission

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Miami, FL 33152-7900

To give online to
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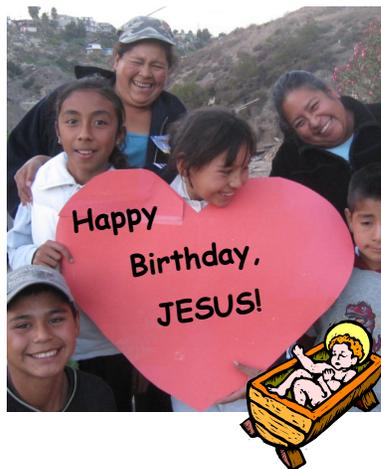


Let us hear from you!

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The Christmas Example

This world is not as it should be. What should be normal, as God meant it, is not the pattern we see lived out in front of us every day. God's ways are so different than ours – how can we visualize how we should live? How can we find the power to live a life of blessing others rather than just embellishing our own plans in 2013? Thank God, He has not only given us a **gift** in Christ's birth of being able to see how a life of service and love should be lived but the **star** on the tree is that by accepting Christ's sacrifice and yielding to the Holy Spirit, God can work this new life out through us in the coming year. Happy Birthday, Jesus – Thanks for being the best gift!



TEAMWORK

For a few years we have had an on-going prayer request for unity within our Team Tijuana. Recently our goal for teamwork got a great boost. When we heard that Todd Szalkowski, from e3partners in Dallas, wanted to come and share "I AM SECOND" with our ministry teams, we knew it was time for some clean-up and remodeling at the Team TJ headquarters.

Our "Equipo Tijuana en Accion" sprang into action with 2 scheduled workdays, supplies to clean and paint, ladders, etc. Bernardo volunteered to sort and haul away trash. Josefina ferociously cleaned every corner and was rewarded by finding a half-dozen dehydrated mice. Elias painted. Javier and Lydia brought men and women from the Esperanza rehab program who repaired drywall, scrubbed out cupboards and painted tables and benches. Chela mopped, swept and helped Josefina hang new curtains.

Flor and the Campo de Fe home for disabled men really surprised us by producing several men able to clamber up on the



roof and not only repair leaks, but completely redo the roof! Pigeon roosts were blocked. Greg made lots of trips to Home Depot and bought tons of pizza, paint, roofing supplies, even a new kitchen sink. Though there's still work to be done, a renewed sense of pride and partnership are part of our new outlook.



What is “I am Second”? Who’s First?

What is “I am second”? I am Second is a tool meant to inspire people of all kinds to live for God and for others. The statement means someone else is first in our lives— Jesus. Weekly Bible studies require us to act out our faith in practical ways. Each study asks questions of the group about what the passage means to them and what they think it tells them about people and about God. The most important question is where each person in the group tells how they will apply the lesson from that passage during the week.



For instance, say the passage is on loving your neighbor. Each person must respond on how they will act on this verse. Just trying to smile at everyone will not cut it. Which neighbor this week will you minister to? How? You say you will help Ruth the elderly neighbor put up her Christmas decorations. What day? Each one in the small group (no more than 8 per group) writes it down. Since the results are so specific the group can ask the following week if you completed your assignment. If you did, the group rejoices, but if you failed the whole group is considered as failing. Why? They wrote down what you planned to do--did they pray for you? Did they call you to remind you to help Ruth? Were commitments fulfilled? If not, then redo the last lesson.

E3Partners has used these small Bible studies as cell groups and house churches. Newly evangelized Christians can be put into groups* or older Christians can strengthen their faith in one. Our leaders have already started groups in the Drug rehab and others are exploring other ways to use “I am Second.”

This creates an environment in which loving Jesus means obeying Jesus. What are YOU going to do about living out your faith— this week? Here’s one idea: check out www.iamsecond.com on line.

*See article in [Mission Frontiers](#), Jan.2012 pg 6 “Can Short-term Teams Foster Church Planting Movement?”

The Parable of the Strawberry Guavas by Kathy

When Ian was a little boy he tasted a strawberry guava from our neighbor's tree, liked it so much that he buried a fruit in our backyard...and now we have a strawberry guava tree, too! For those of you who have never seen or tasted this exotic cranberry-colored fruit, it's about the size of a grape, loaded with seeds and bursting with flavor. They make great jelly. Our Mexican friends love them and are always happy when I bring some down.



Recently my neighbor with the guava tree moved into a retirement home and her daughter gave me permission to harvest fruit from their backyard whenever I wanted. I gathered many figs, lemons and guavas. But then I got busy, a little lazy and distracted. When I finally got around to picking more guavas, I saw to my dismay that much of the fruit was dried up or rotted. It could have been a treat to many—it’s nutritious, too!

With a repentant heart, I picked what fruit was still ripe, recalling that Jesus taught that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. As I saw the withered fruit still on the tree, I wondered about people who at one time were ripe for hearing about Jesus. Do their hearts dry up to a point that when a worker does come with the good news, they are no longer ripe? I've also noticed when I'm consistent about pruning, watering, and then picking the guavas on our tree, the fruit seems to get bigger and sweeter. Any lesson there for us in the fields serving Jesus?