

Hi Everyone,

God is Good! I have many past, present, and future events to report to you.

July 13-19 Philip Rogers brought a team from Erwin, TN to work with Habitat for Humanity in the Chattanooga area. FCM was able to host the team in our "Retreat Center" (our home), and provided all their food and lodging needs in exchange for a generous contribution to the mission.

They were our second group-hosting experience. Last spring we enjoyed hosting an "over-nighter" for 15 young ladies from Hickory Valley Christian Church so they could have a girls-only night out to discuss important topics and get answers to questions they would not ask in a co-ed environment.

Philip's team was experienced, organized, and skilled from many previous mission projects, so they were able to quickly complete the tasks assigned to them; not only for Habitat for Humanity but also for Widow's Harvest. With the time they had left over they returned to the FCM mission center and built a deck and caulked my windows and trim. Thank you guys!

Bottom photos are from Mexico. Craig Gates, missionary, after 20+ years of renting and having to move each time the owner needed his property for some other purpose, finally has property of his own. He has had Several teams this summer involved with the construction of a mission center with room for future groups, guests, and students involved in the Christian education programs that Craig teaches. If you would like to learn more about Christ's Mission to the Yucatan (CMY) send Craig an email and ask to be put on his email list. Tell him Levern sent you. [cmygates@comcast.net](mailto:cmygates@comcast.net) Just paste this address into your email to him.

If you live in a northern state and this winter you are freezing and want to get warm, a week or so with Craig will warm your body and your soul. Take in some Mayan ruins and add some cultural diversity to your life as well.



**News about Honduras:** Most of the in-country missionaries are temporarily back in the U.S. watching the political situation to see which way the sentiment toward Americans goes. The president that was removed by the Honduran Supreme Court needed to be removed. The actions taken were lawful. This was a great step in preserving their democracy and the U.S. should seize this opportunity to show its support for such a brave act. Cuba, Venezuela, Iran, and our president all wanted to see the president returned to office. I'm glad the Hondurans are standing firm against this pressure.

Ashley Lauer is currently recruiting volunteers to go back with her on short-term trips in December, January, and March. Christian missions here and around the world are the United States best hope for gaining trust and respect. It is Americans/Christians at their best. I sure wish we could go back to being a Christian Nation rather than just a nation of citizens.



*Here's Ashley doing what she does best - Loving on the little kids that God puts in her path.*

**Alaska:** Harold Jerde has a team of five all set to go to Alaska August 30-September 6. They will be helping Travis Reed, the Crossroads Church minister, to build a garage. This will be the storage and support structure from which future teams can begin building a church building. Alaskan weather can turn inhospitable for weeks at a time so having a structure to work within and a place to keep material and tools from either being buried in snow or wandering off is essential. I should have pictures of their progress/accomplishments for the next newsletter.

**CAP- Christian Appalachian Project - East Kentucky:** Harold and I are recruiting now for a team to go to E. Kentucky October 11-16. In this program Christians work to help some of the poorest of our fellow Americans. The Bible tells us that coming to the aid of widows and orphans is Christianity/religion in its purest form. This statement pretty much defines the goal of CAP.

## **Farsight Christian Mission Retreat Center**

**We are now open for business.**

**Youth Retreat. Ladies Retreat. Men's Retreat. Ministry staff Retreat. Married Couples Retreat.**

Cynthia and I are ready for you. We can offer just lodging and meals and you provide your own program or let us know a theme or lesson you would like presented and we can work with you to provide as much as you wish.

**Shepherds (Elders),** would you like a comprehensive review of your Biblically detailed duties. And then examine some modern-day tools and ideas that will aid you in accomplishing those duties with clarity, accountability, and measurable results? Whether you have been an elder for years or you are a new recruit, a weekend away from the flock to focus on your awesome responsibility and opportunity as one of God's Shepherds, can only serve to make you a better Shepherd. Over the past 35 years, Lavern has served as deacon in three congregations, Elder in two, and chairman of Elders in one. He was ordained into the ministry in 1976 and has served as a missionary/evangelist/servant-leader in eight countries.

Soon, the center will also offer other self, team, and leadership-building courses that will include biblical teaching along with ROPES and STEPS courses. We can also customize missionary survival training for short-term or long-term teams or families going onto the mission field.

Need to just get away for some quiet reflection and an opportunity to meditate within a beautiful God-created surrounding? The center is enveloped in a beautiful GREEN canopy now and will turn an equally beautiful fall burst of colors this October. Throughout the winter months, there will be a crackling fire to sit close to.

Please give us a call with your wishes and ideas. We would be honored to be able to serve you and our Lord.

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