

THE CROSSROADS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF AFLC JOURNEY MISSIONS



THE MESSENGER, NOT THE MESSAGE

BY: GRACE NYSTUEN, 2ND TIME TRIP MEMBER TO OAXACA, MEXICO

As the twenty-six of us drove towards the airport after yet another long but fruitful mission trip, I entered an hour long drive reflecting on my time spent in Mexico. I thought to myself, "How lucky am I that I got to go back to the same children's home a second year in a row and further deepen the relationships that I have with so many of the children there." My first year I remember the drive back to the airport being heartbreaking and sad, but driving back to the airport this time, knowing that I have no guarantee of returning for another year, I found peace and comfort.

In March, I had the opportunity to return to Oaxaca, Mexico to serve at the Foundation For His Ministry Children's home (FFHM). The theme that the children's home was focusing on was "God Cares". While we were there, they were emphasizing that God watches out for the lowly and loves all. He is just and righteous in that He doesn't neglect the less fortunate and disadvantaged.

Witnessing the church at FFHM and the staff that love God's children everyday, had a lasting effect on me and left me feeling greatly encouraged. Seeing how God has blessed this particular children's home serves as a reminder to me of the universal church and the body of Christ that is ever growing. Our God cares, and loves everyone. It is very evident that the staff at FFHM care deeply for these kids and desire them all to know the love of God.

The days leading up to our departure almost anything could easily lead me to tears; seeing the faces of the kids I love so much as they shout for me to come near to play a game; a kind gesture shown to me by a staff member; a hug goodbye followed by an "adios" that could resemble the last time.

Something that I was reminded of was the fact that although our entire group really did enjoy investing and playing with the kids, we weren't the ones that brought Jesus to them.

UPCOMING TRIPS

- Israel — June 7-17, 2025
- Oaxaca, Mexico — Aug 9-18, 2025 - **Applications Close June 1st!**
- Israel — November 7-17, 2025
- FLBC Student Trip — Spring 2026
- Uganda — Summer 2026

If you or your church have an interest in going on a trip, we can walk through the process with you.

Contact us at:
journeymissions@afmc.org



We are not the ones that have the

ticket of salvation. At FFHM they are raising these children in the faith and pointing them to the gospel. Although we live on opposite ends of the continent and have language barriers, I can have faith that if I don't ever make it back down to Mexico, one day I will be reunited with them in heaven, with zero language barriers holding us back.

On my first trip to Oaxaca, I approached the trip with the mindset fixated on the things I needed to accomplish. I wanted to be able to make deep relationships with the kids, evangelize effectively, and astronomically change the lives of those I encountered. At first this

mindset does not seem like a bad thing; however, when I was focusing more on the important things I needed to do rather than God's importance, it became a problem. It didn't matter what I said to the kids or how many projects our group accomplished, it would never be enough to change their lives. During one of the church services I remember singing the song "Cuan Grande es Dios," or "How Great is our God." Having the song be so familiar, but sung so boldly in a different language from my own, struck me in a deeper way. How Great is our God? He is greater than any language barrier and greater than any cultural differences. At that church service, we were all praising the same God, a God that

"I PLANTED, APOLLOS WATERED, BUT GOD WAS CAUSING THE GROWTH. SO THEN NEITHER THE ONE WHO PLANTS NOR THE ONE WHO WATERS IS ANYTHING, BUT GOD WHO CAUSES THE GROWTH."

1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-7

is greater than it all. I realized that its not up to me to bring people to Jesus. Even though it's important to me that people hear the gospel and their lives are changed, at the end of the day the only person that can change people's lives is Jesus. I'm just the messenger, not the message.

—Grace Nystuen, Recent FLBC Graduate

MISSIONARY ASSISTANTS

- Michelle Abel – Missionary Assistant to Brazil – Currently Serving
- Kyle Gorman – Missionary Assistant to Switzerland – July-August 2025
- Isaiah Floan – Missionary Assistant to Switzerland – July-August 2025
- Joey Richardson – Missionary Assistant to Paraguay – August 2025-Feb. 2026

Any interest in the Missionary Assistant Program? We would love to send you to serve this year! Reach out to us at journeymissions@aflc.org.

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY:

OAXACA, MEXICO – AUGUST 9-18, 2025
APPLICATIONS CLOSE JUNE 1ST!