

## Costa Rica

During the week of March 27 – April 2, team leader Steve Chaffin, Gary Determan, Luis Ferreiro, Jeff Kvant, and Ray Moore, journeyed to San Isidro de Heredia, Costa Rica to serve at the Multiplication Training Center of International Teams and Sonlife Ministries. The mission of the Multiplication Training Center is to mobilize and train Latin Americans to disciple and raise up believers who will in turn invest their lives in others, so that disciples of Jesus Christ are multiplied both in Latin America and around the world.

Our team's mission was to complete renovation of the Casa Grande office complex. Our team literally got down and dirty, first by removing old flooring (a blow torch worked nicely to melt the old glue), sanding, and then replacing the tile floor in the facility kitchen. An earlier team from California had secured the facilities' roof structure with a six inch steel beam. This repair was necessary to prevent the entire structure from collapsing. With the roof secure, our team was able to replace aging and leaking skylights.

The days were long and the work sometimes tedious, but the vision of creating a beautiful and functional facility for the ministry team kept us motivated.

To say our time in Costa Rica was all work would not tell the entire story



of our trip. To be sure we enjoyed the scenic vistas and beautiful surroundings (we stopped counting the number of flowers and flowering shrubs in the compound). We ate well (Muy rico, la comida fue muy pura vida) and enjoyed the local cuisine (although mayonnaise on French fries was a bit strange and there are only so many ways to prepare rice and beans). Two and a half hours on a zip line 100' above the ground on swaying cables and suspended wooden platforms and time spent body surfing in the Pacific Ocean were exciting ways to experience another side of Costa Rica (not to mention the fish tacos).

Each day included a time of personal Bible study and concluded with group discussion. Our focus was on Jesus' challenge to his soon to be disciples: "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19). We were challenged to think about living a life of a true disciple before we could think about making disciples. We learned from the life of Jesus and how the Father prepared Him to be a leader and perfect model

of leadership for us. Finally, we were challenged to live a style of life that Jesus modeled and be available to Him to train others to live this style of life.

But if all this were not enough, we were blessed each evening by the testimonies of young men and women who had literally answered Jesus' call to commit themselves to a life of disciple-making in Latin America and around the world.

As we concluded our week, we truly were blessed to have had the opportunity to help maintain and improve the facilities that God has entrusted to International Teams so that His work can continue as they minister to young people and train the next generation of Latin missionaries.



**"as the Father sent me, I am sending you" John 20:21**



## What Would You Do?

by Sarah Miller

Using hidden cameras, "Primetime: What Would You Do?" sets up everyday scenarios and then captures people's reactions. This series looks at what people actually do in difficult situations, not what they say they would do. How they act in the face of dilemmas is a test of their character and values. This started me thinking about how we, as believers, are also tested in how well we love our neighbors not only in difficult situations but also in everyday casual interactions.

Here are a few scenarios for your consideration:

Scenario #1: You've just finished your shopping and are approaching the check-out lanes all of which have long lines. One cashier's clothing



style indicates that she may be from another country. What would you do?

Scenario #2: You witness a deli clerk treating two Latino customers rudely. What would you do?

Scenario #3: A devout Muslim woman wearing a veil is denied service by the owner of a popular bakery. What would you do?

Frankly, I would rather answer the question, "What would Jesus do?" It's usually not hard to figure out what He would do. I can pat myself on the back that I know the answer but then go through my days without intentionally emulating Jesus. If I'm truthful the real answer to the question, "What would I do?" is sometimes embarrassing and convicting.

Throughout the Bible God instructs His people to love their foreign neighbors. In Leviticus 19:33-34 God says, *"When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God."*

God doesn't mention anything regarding the legality of the foreigners' presence; He only says to treat them as though they were native-born citizens and to love them the way we love ourselves.

God asked the Israelites to draw from their own experience as foreigners in relating to and interacting with their foreign neighbors. Shouldn't we also draw from our immigrant heritage in reaching out to the foreigners around us?

We are a country of immigrants. Almost all of our citizens have roots in other countries. Unless you are a full-blooded Native American, either you or one of your ancestors journeyed to the United States. Maybe it was your parents. Maybe it was someone 300 years ago. But someone in your family, for whatever reason, was uprooted from home and culture and traveled here, making the United States his or her new home.

So when it comes right down to it, today's immigrants are just like us and our immigrant ancestors. They are hard-working, want to feed their families, want to give their children educational opportunities, and want to practice their faith. The next time our path crosses with an immigrant cashiering at the grocery store, standing in line at the post office, in our doctor's office, or see him/her cleaning our office or mowing a lawn . . . I think we know what Jesus would do. . . what will **we** do?

## H2O - Making a difference at Mary's Place

This year we provided over 1000 pancakes, 880 sausages, 60 pounds of cheesy hash browns, and 100 pounds of fruit to almost 300 people, on Saturday, May 7, at our annual Mother's Day brunch! We had over 100 volunteers help out and Northwooders donated over \$1000 worth of food and supplies to make the day a huge success for everyone involved! There were hundreds of smiles and many new friends made! Thank you for making this happen and thanks to our God, for allowing us this opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus!  
~The H2O team



*This year I met a girl and her name is Kamesha. Kamesha is so nice! I made friends with her when I served her family's table, because I started talking to her a little bit.*

*After Mary's Place is over I feel really good about what we did that day and how we served so many people. I also feel a little tired, because I walked around a lot, but I always feel like I accomplished something after it is over. I feel kind of sad to leave because it is so much fun, but I know that there is always next year to serve!*

*At the Mother's Day brunch, I thought it was so cool to have the prayer request sheets on all the tables. When I read them with my mom I thought we should do these every year, and I felt bad for the families that are going through tough times. Reading the prayer requests made me feel good and happy that so many people filled them out and that we could pray for them. I thought it was cool when I served a table and the whole family was filling out the prayer requests! ~Dani Chaffin*

On a dusty plain outside a town in Ethiopia, there are piles of little stones. They mark the graves of children - mostly children under the age of five who died of cholera and other waterborne diseases. The lack of opportunities for gainful employment along with the poor conditions in Ethiopia prompt many to engage in risky movements to other countries. The Bashule family from Mary's Place is one of those families that moved here from Ethiopia. There is always something special at Mary's Place each year and this family touched my heart. They have only been in the United States since March. While eating their breakfast they asked me for a picture of themselves for their grandmother who is celebrating her first Mothers Day. Even the Reddi-Wip can was something new. They just couldn't grasp the concept of how to make it work. I pray for this family to prosper here in Minnesota with safety, laughter and a home!  
~Suzy Nardini



*My favorite part of the day was when I helped serve the first hour, because I thought it was really fun to serve people who don't usually get to celebrate Mother's Day like that every year. I look forward to Mary's Place every year because when we do the food prep the night before, it is cool to think that all the stuff we are doing is going to be given to the people at Mary's Place.*



# Summer Missions 2011



*Kenya Team - August 2011*

This summer Northwood is sending out three short-term mission teams: the Twin Cities Refugee Team, June 24-26, the Mexico Team, July 23-31, and the Kenya Team, August 7-21. The Twin Cities Refugee Team includes Sarah Miller, Jason and LaVonne Dyer and Ann Kvant. The team will be working with Somali and Bhutanese refugees, delivering furniture, participating in a Mosque tour and dinner with Somali refugees, experiencing a Bhutanese worship service, and then lunch with Bhutanese refugees and their

families. The Mexico Team will be serving with Manuel and Laura Vivanco at the Iglesia Bautista Bet-lehem in Chiconautla, Mexico. This is the seventh year Northwood has sent a team and they will be working on evangelistic outreach, leading children's ministries, working on construction projects, helping with leadership training, sharing their FaithStories, participating in worship services



*Mexico Team - July 2011 (Don Zeitlow pictured here in 2009)*

and staying with host families. The Kenya Team includes Sarah Miller, Jason and LaVonne Dyer, Andy McKown, Claudia Olson, and Mark Collier. The team will be working with Dotun and Ami Modupe and the International Teams Refugee Ministry Team in Nairobi, Kenya leading a Somali Retreat during the first week. The second week the team will be working in partnership with Mathare Community Outreach and Inverted Arts on a recording project of the Kariobangi Children's Home choir and then leading the older students from the orphanage in week-long art camp that culminates in an Art Showcase Event for the people of the Mathare Valley.



*Twin Cities Refugee Team - June 2011*

## OUTREACH CALENDAR



- **May 24, July 26, September 27, November 22: Loaves and Fishes**
- **May 29: Teen Challenge Choir and BBQ**
- **June 3: Hope Academy Year-end BBQ**
- **June 24-26: Twin Cities Refugee Trip**
- **July 14-17: Northwood booth at Maple Grove Days**
- **July 23-31: Mexico Trip**
- **August 7-21: Kenya Trip**
- **October 30: Maple Grove Food Packing Event**

## OUTREACH GIVING

*(Fiscal Year 9/2010-8/2011)*

**Budget YTD      \$31,308**  
**Received         \$30,603**

Here, there and everywhere

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