

Once again it has been too long since we have communicated with many of you. Life has a way of getting busier all the time. Here is the past year in brief.

Last year's annual banquet was a wonderful success. We had a full house and presented a shortened version of the program we had taken to the churches the previous 3 years. There were many churches we were unable to get to due to covid shutdowns.

July 30 we took off for Johnson City, TN for the Southeast Student Leadership Conference. There were four of us who went. We enjoyed some time hiking some beautiful waterfalls along the way and while there. But the real reasons for traveling nearly 2000 miles round trip are not to see waterfalls. We spend a good deal of time together building relationships during that trip. We get to spend time with other college students and campus ministers while worshipping, learning, and being better equipped for the year ahead. We plan to make that trip again this year. If you know of a student who will be attending NEO this next fall, we'd like to visit with them about the trip. The dates this year are July 26-31. The cost is \$205, but we provide scholarships to help offset that expense. Perhaps you'd like to sponsor a student. You can send a check or donate through our website.



Labor Day weekend once again saw us camping in Branson. We enjoyed the outdoors, seeing a show, Silver Dollar City, shopping, attending Sycamore Log Church, bottle-feeding baby calves, and several other activities. Plans are to make the trip again this fall. There are so many fun opportunities to bond!

While we love to serve with Voice of the Martyrs on Fall Break, the opportunity has not been there for the past three years. This year we took that extended weekend to make our biannual trip to Nebraska to visit Lonnie's home church. We wound up at the last minute with no students being able to make the trip so Lonnie and Chris and one of their granddaughters along with Anthony and one of his girls made the trip. It was a disappointment that no students were along, but we took advantage of this circumstance



to do some special things with the girls. The Henry Doorly Zoo, Mahoney State Park, and the chocolate factory in Greenwood gave us ample things to enjoy on Friday and Saturday. (We actually enjoyed our treats from the chocolate factory for several days ;). On Sunday we debuted our new program there at the church. It was a rich time of reunion for Lonnie as well. His 1st & 2nd grade teacher, now in her 90s, traveled with her son quite a distance to be there. Also three sisters who had grown up in the church and moved away came for the "reunion." Several people traveled hundreds of miles. The sad part of the weekend was that Lonnie's mom fell and broke her hip that Saturday morning early, so Lonnie's Nebraska family was unable to attend.

We were also privileged to present our program at Welch Christian Church, New Hope Christian Church in Miami, and Memorial Christian Church in Bartlesville this year. We hope to catch many of the rest of you next year.

We have a few opportunities each year for a visible presence on campus. Welcome week includes moving students into dorms, co-hosting a worship service on Sunday before the semester begins and the club fair. We also take advantage of Junior/Senior Day, National Student Day of Prayer, and handing out "loaded hot chocolate" on a cold winter day in January. Our booth at Junior/Senior Day is always a hub of activity with our chocolate fountain being a focal point. Have you ever tried pepperoni dipped in



chocolate? It gets attention and gains a few moments to chat with students.

Apartment for RENT

Each year we take applications for the CSF apartment. It's a great alternative to life in the dorms. Our rates are less than those on campus and no costly meal plan is required. Applications are taken

through June 30 (or later if vacancies remain). There are three private rooms available. Males and females are both welcome to apply, although one gender will be chosen for occupancy. Applications are available at www.csfneo.com

With several restrictions still in place at Mountain Mission School in Virginia, we chose to use Spring Break time to head back to Casas Grandes in Mexico. We have served there since 2016 and developed some very close friendships. Seven of us made the trip and worked on the new home of a young family in the church. We made some good progress and by the time you read this, they will have moved into their new home. We enjoyed stops at White Sands National Park and San Lorenzo Canyon on the journey. Dinner with Jonathan Meza and family along with his grandparents, Freeman and Carolyn Bump was a treat on Saturday evening. Then we shared a meal and lodging with Jonathan's mom, Sharon Bump Meza, in Amarillo on the way back home.

There were four new participants on this trip, and I believe I can say that all of them would eagerly make this trip again. We were so blessed to share in everything throughout the week. You ought to consider going with us (on any of our mission trips)! We hope to be back in full force next year with several opportunities.



Working on the Perales home



Pictured at left—Front row: Arisbeth Perales, Elizabeth Mancinas, Abby Perales, Jose Perales;
Back row: Lonnie Portenier, Doug Tarabek, Scotlyn Gelso, Anthony Sherrell, Chris Portenier, Lindsay Caudill, Gloria Mancinas, Fidel Mancinas, Esau, Leon Hansen

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