

News from Malcolm Taylor – December 2007

Dear Friends,

October 21st 2007 was a day that many will remember for years to come. 650,000 people in the greater San Diego area were evacuated from several major wild fires. Fuelled by the strong and hot Santa Ana winds, the fires spread out of control for several days. Over 1,500 homes have been lost in the fires. Several of our San Diego office staff had to relocate, but thankfully our office and staff housing have all been unaffected.



What were not reported, in the news, were the several smaller fires in Mexico. One of these fires, just 45 minutes south of Ensenada destroyed the small mountain community, Antonio Melendrez, of 74 homes, displacing around 150 people. It was complete



devastation; the only building left standing was the community centre. The local government responded with water and blankets, with most of the families staying with relatives nearby. The leadership of YWAM San Diego/Baja made an immediate pledge to help rebuild this community.



My last few weeks have been incredibly busy in the efforts to coordinate the rebuilding of the Antonio Melendrez community. From an original 74 homes the local government social services provided us with a list of 50 names who they believed needed a new house. After interviewing each family we determined that we would be able to provide 30 homes for these families. The first 20 would be our regular wooden YWAM homes and the remainder will be the new modular design to be built early 2008. Esther, who runs our family selection process, spent countless hours, interviewing, researching and negotiating with the community leader who we should be building for. Our heart was to help those who truly lost everything.

Normally our houses are funded and built by visiting US and Canadian teams. With some scholarship funding in place, we have seen a huge enthusiasm for local teams to come and help rebuild. So far 14 local Mexican teams have joined us in helping to build these homes. This has been such a great blessing in having local teams being able to participate in our ministry.



By the time you receive this letter we will have completed 19 houses in this community. Add on top of that a further 12 houses with our regular teams and we hit an all time Ensenada record of 31 houses in one month. The logistical challenge has been huge, but I am thankful to my staff and the additional volunteers who have come to help in this effort. We know God is at hand in being able to minister to this community.

One of the November teams were a group of families, friends and business associates from Colorado. Following their visit we received a letter explaining how this trip impacted his family. I wanted to share a portion of that letter with you all;

“A true Builder builds more than just the tangible. They create the intangible. We created more than just shelter for these people. We created hope for a better life. We gave them a new sense of pride and a reason to exist. We gave a future to them and their children. We witnessed testimony from families who received homes several years ago. We heard their success stories and we saw communities that were better because of these people’s inspiration. We took away the cause of disease from dirt floors. We experienced a level of customer satisfaction and appreciation that can only be described as emotions from the heart and soul.

YWAM encouraged us to be “builders” of relationships, human spirit, and legacy... We made a big difference for one lone family in Ensenada Mexico. We became builders of the human spirit, not just technicians building a house. We created the start of a legacy for a Mexican Family and a legacy for our own family... Be a Builder in your life at home and at work. Build lasting relationships with your family, colleagues, and customers. Construct things that last both tangible and intangible. And create a legacy that will withstand the test of time; a legacy that will be passed to future generations.”



Wishing you all the best this holiday season,
Malcolm Taylor

Praise Items

For no loss of life in the Mexican fires.
For being able to provide new homes to those who lost everything.
For being able to provide 160 homes to needy families in 2007.

Prayer Requests

For my trip to the Africa Mercy in Las Palmas in December for some follow up work after her first season of ministry in Africa.
For all the families in Antonio Melendrez, that they can rebuild their lives following the fires.
For financial support for our Mexican staff.

Support:

As full time volunteers, we receive no salary for our work. If you wish to help support my work with YWAM and the worldwide Christian community that we are called to serve, please consider supporting me with your prayers and donations.

For non tax payers and for a single gift of up to £30: By Cheque payable to Malcolm Taylor and post to: *Malcolm Taylor, c/o 40 Trent Drive, Wareham, Dorset. BH20 4DF.*

Gift Aid Donation through Stewardship Services:

Your donation to me, by using Gift Aid, can be increased by 28% by reclaiming the tax you have already paid. This can be for any single donation over £30, or for regular sponsorship. Please contact me and I will forward a gift aid form to you.

Your support to me in prayer and by your donations is gratefully received. Thank you.

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