

The Christ for Humanity Newsletter

THECFHCHRONICLES

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IS MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST? DO I START EACH DAY WITH HIM? AM I CON



ROOTS Returning to the heart of the ministry by Tina Rollins

My co-pilot headphones muffled the roaring sound of our single-engine plane. Suddenly, the voice of missionary pilot and friend Mark McCurdy crackled in my ears, as he gave his position in the Sierra Madre Mountains to our United Indian Missions pilot, Joe Swanson. As our two planes passed each other just west of Guachochi, a small village near the edge of one of Mexico's many treacherous canyons, both pilots tipped their wings in greeting. Mark and his passengers had just left Baborigame (BG), heading back to Chihuahua City. Camille, Peggy and I were just ten minutes from touchdown in BG. After nearly 13 years of CFH involvement with the New Tribes missionaries in Mexico, we three women were finally ready to put faces to people familiar to us only by letter or e-mail. How we anticipated meeting some of the faithful men and women, dedicated to bringing Christ to the indigenous people of Mexico.

Looking through the tiny plane window at the rugged canyon below, my mind journeyed back to 1989 – before Christ for Humanity existed. During Spring break that year, our family took the train from Chihuahua City west through the Copper Canyon to the coastal city of Los Moches. Copper Canyon is the Grand Canyon of Mexico. Though not as colorful as its US counterpart, Copper Canyon is bigger and deeper – truly one of God's wondrous creations. Slowing winding through the mountains, our train stopped for the night at various villages. Waiting for us at the train stations were dark-skinned Indian women in colorful full skirts, accompanied by dirty, ragged children. They were selling their handicrafts for a few pesos – finely woven baskets and crudely carved, wooden dolls dressed in traditional garb.

At El Divisadero, one of the most spectacular canyon overlooks, our guide led a group of "gringos" on a two hour hike into the mountains. Dark, dank caves with lean-tos at the entrances dotted the path. These were the homes of the local Indians – filthy places with dirt floors and cardboard walls, blackened by years of the smoke from cooking fires. Shy children with runny noses peeked curiously at us from behind their mother's skirts. Many of these precious little ones wouldn't live to adulthood. In fact, our guide told us that the Indians don't even name their children until they are two, as infant mortality is so high. Most of us had never witnessed such poverty.

My husband, Mark Rollins, was haunted by the despair reflected the Indians' eyes. On returning to Tulsa, he learned that New Tribes Mission was evangelizing the indigenous people of the Sierra. Early in 1990 Mark organized a group of mission-minded men from Fellowship Bible Church to go to Mexico on a fact-finding trip to learn how Christians in the US might better help New Tribes working with the Tarahumara, Tepejuan, Pima and

Guarillo Indians. The missionaries requested short-term medical teams, as there were no healthcare facilities in their areas of the Sierra.

The seeds of Christ for Humanity were sown in arranging these trips for lay-missionary teams. Mark found many Christians interested in going to Mexico to help the Indians. In no time dates for medical, dental, and eyeglass teams were established, plane tickets to Chihuahua purchased, and United Indian Missions planes chartered for flights into remote areas. On the first few trips, dentist pulled decayed teeth from dawn until dusk. Later CFH purchased and positioned dental equipment in the mountains so dentist could save teeth. Eyeglass teams fitted hundreds of pairs of glasses. Team doctors treated everything from skin diseases like leprosy to respiratory problems, including TB. CFH lay-missionaries returned to the States with renewed interest in ministry and with an appreciation for the efforts of missionaries on the front lines, bringing light into the darkness of people steeped in paganism. Sending teams to the Sierra became a regular CFH activity and continues today.

In 1991 CFH contacted New Tribes about the possibility of funding a work project. Gene Purcell, a missionary living in Baborigame, suggested building a church there. For three years, Gene spearheaded this project. CFH sent work crews from a number of US churches to Mexico to help build Baborigame Bible Church. In July of 1993, the church was dedicated to the glory of God.

As Camille, Peggy and I landed on BG's dirt airstrip, we realized that Baborigame has changed dramatically during the past ten years. Today the town boasts 3,500 residents, most of whom are Mexicans. The Tepejuan Indians live on the outskirts and in the mountains. In 1993 BG didn't have electricity or even a grocery store. Today area children can attend the government school, and some locals even have televisions.

But perhaps the most dramatic change from 1993 is the interest indigenous and Mexican people alike are showing for a relationship with Christ. New Tribes offers well attended Saturday and Sunday programs for area children at the church. The missionary team has invested years learning the Tepejuan language and translating the Bible into the Indian tongue. They have also developed a literacy program for the Indians. Tepejuan men and women now attend church on Sunday, hearing for the first time of a loving God who doesn't need animal sacrifices and drunken festivals to be appeased. Ultimately, the missionaries hope to establish native believers to evangelize the tribe. After so many years, the team is finally on the brink of seeing God move in a wonderful way among the Tepejuan.

Returning to the birthplace of Christ for Humanity blessed Camille, Peggy and me immensely. The McLellans, Baumans, and Arnolds (the missionary family's in BG) taught us that as Christians our job is to sow God's seed and allow Holy Spirit to prick hearts. Few Americans would be patient enough to wait 10 or 20 years to witness the first fruit of their labor. But Sierra missionaries realize that God's timing is perfect. Their faithfulness to Him and the Tepejuan people is an inspiration to us all – a refreshing encouragement to our spirits as we continue in His service in Tulsa and the uttermost parts of the world.

1st Steps CFH Class in Discipleship for New Believers

The primary difference between Christ for Humanity and secular humanitarian relief organizations is the ministry's commitment to offer the Gospel of Christ with the provision of food, clothing, furniture, household item, or medical supplies. When people seek help from our organization, they experience God's love in the physical realm when very real needs are met. However, they also have the opportunity to learn of the immensity of God's love for them in the person of His only Son, and many men and women pray to accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. While our staff rejoices with each names added to the *Lamb's Book of Life*, the nagging question remains, "Who will disciple these new believers once they walk out the ministry's door?"



Make Someone Happy!

Participate in the CFH Annual Holiday Ham Drive

Christmas is almost upon us. The season is a festival for the senses: the smell and taste of delicious food; the sound of well-loved carols carried by the breeze; the sight of holiday decorations and lights; and the touch of family members long unseen. During the Christmas season, when God showed the greatness of His love for us through the birth of His only Son, most of us have much to celebrate. Yet, within the boundaries of Tulsa, many men, women, and children find the holidays stressful because physical and spiritual expectations go unmet.

Each year Christ for Humanity tries to make Christmas special for area poor with the provision of a Christmas ham in holiday food boxes. Warehouse Market of Tulsa is offering the ministry an extremely reasonable price (\$5.99) for 5 lb. Rodeo boneless hams. These hams have been very well received in past years by the residents of our various outreach facilities. What a joy to see the smiling faces of those receiving holiday hams in years past!

Christ for Humanity has outreaches in 9 area housing facilities, not to mention the numerous individual families visiting our office for food. This year we would like to purchase _____ boneless hams. Anyone wishing to participate in the CFH 2003 Ham Drive can send a check, earmarked *Ham Drive*, to:

Christ for Humanity
6314 East 13th Street
Tulsa, OK 74137

CFH Christmas outreaches will begin the week of December 15th. We would like to receive all donations by Thursday, December 11th. Your gift adds a special measure of Christ's love to lives that so need to feel His touch and care. Make someone happy this year. Provide a Christmas ham!

Christmas Allegory

As Christmas approaches, I am reminded of the story of a little boy who walked to school alone each day along a country lane. One morning he stopped to watch a colony of ants living on the edge of the dirt road. Each succeeding day thereafter, the boy found time to linger with his tiny friends. As the weeks passed, his amazement of these creatures grew, for they overcame difficult adversities like wind and rain. In time the lad began to recognize individual ants with certain characteristics and often looked for these special friends.

On his way to school one morning, the boy was startled by an unsettling sight. A crew of men and machines had invaded his quiet little world. They were laying a hot strip of asphalt on the dusty, back-country road. Emotions flooded the young boy as he realized the ant hill was in the path of destruction. Shouting at the ants to flee, the lad dropped on his hands and knees and started pushing the dirt mound off the side of the road. But his good intentions were either not understood or misunderstood by the ants, which scrambled in every direction in terror.

With tears streaming down his face, the young boy slowly stood, realizing his precious little friends had no idea of their imminent danger. His warnings only confused and disoriented those he wanted most in the world to save. At that moment the young man realized that the only way he could communicate with these little creatures was to become one himself.

So it is with God and man. Our Father in Heaven desires that no man should perish. To that end He gave the world His most precious gift – a means of salvation. At Christmas we celebrate the birth of God's only Son, Jesus Christ.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us ...” John 1:14

For His Highest

Is my utmost for His highest?
Do I start each day with Him?
Am I constantly aware
Of His presence deep within?

Or have I turned away from God
To sojourn on my own?
Forgotten why He sent His Son,
While going it alone.

God fashioned Adam from the dust
To mirror His reflection,
Desiring man's obedience
In turn for His affection.

Christ is the greatest gift of all,
Which none should dare forsake;
Salvation through His blood's the grace
God wants us each to take.

Marian Dawson

On the Light Side

Holiday Diet Tips

If no one sees you eat it, it has no calories.

2. If you drink diet soda with a candy bar, they cancel each other out.
3. When eating with someone else, calories don't count if you both eat the same amount.
4. Foods used for medicinal purposes have no calories. This includes any chocolate for energy, Sarah Lee Cheesecake (eaten whole), and Haagen-Daz Ice Cream.
5. Movie related foods (buttered popcorn, Milk Duds, pop, Gummie Bears, etc.) are much lower in calories because they are part of the entertainment experience.
6. Cookie pieces contain no calories because the process of breakage causes calorie leakage.
7. If you eat from someone else's plate, it doesn't count.
8. If you eat standing up, the calories go to your feet and get walked off.
9. Food eaten at Christmas parties has no calories, courtesy of Santa.
10. STRESSED is just DESSERTS spelled backward.