



MISSION EXPLOSION INTERNATIONAL

"Ambassadors for Christ around the World"

Rusty Swafford, Evangelist

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****Please Note Our New Permanent Address****

PO BOX 9006 Knoxville, TN 37940

A Personal Message from Rusty

I hope this newsletter finds you well. Fall is in the air, and it won't be long until Christmas. I have much to share with you in this newsletter. Audrey and I have been serving the Lord overseas for over 30 years. We have experienced many dangers and hardships; however, this past January in India was by far the most dangerous. It was a life-threatening situation that involved our granddaughter, Kylee. I can still hear the cries from Audrey and Kylee in the back seat, as the mob tried to overturn our van. It was a traumatic experience to say the least. When I arrived back from India I decided it would be our last trip due to the scary situation we faced. I have a great love for the Indian people, and we have poured our lives into this ministry for many years. Over 35 churches have been planted to the Glory of the Lord since 1988, and hundreds of souls have been reached for Christ. We have hosted short-term mission groups too numerous to count. After much thought and prayers we have decided to return back to India. Bottom line is that God is not finished with me yet in India. I continue to plant churches and preach the Gospel to a pagan nation that needs the Lord in spite of the dangers and hardships. The fields are still ripe for harvest. The country of India is made up of Hindus and Muslims, with over a billion people who need to hear the message of Salvation. We have been searching for a forwarding agent for some time to take care of the ministry needs when we are out of the country and to keep a check on the correspondence and mail. I am happy to announce that our daughter, Jordan, has agreed to assume that responsibility. We have purchased a house together in Knoxville, Tennessee so we can be near our family again after being away for such a long time. My son-in-law, Joey, and daughter, Jordan, will be pursuing their master's degrees at the University of Tennessee and will be serving with us on the mission field during the summer months. We will continue the ministry in southern Mexico and, the Lord willing, I will be traveling to Mexico on December 2nd to encourage the churches and preach many meetings in the park. We also plan to start a new church plant in 2018. Please keep Joey, Phil Hancock and I in your prayers as we travel to Mexico. We plan to make our way back to India in late February. I will give you more details on the trip in the New Year. Thank you for your daily prayers and financial support for the ministry of Mission Explosion International. Souls are being saved, churches are being planted, many preachers and their families are being supported, and hundreds of poor widows and children are being fed each year. Your continued support is greatly needed, and we cherish your prayers. To God Be The Glory, Great Things He Has Done!

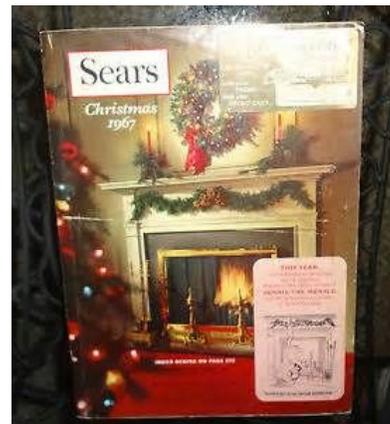
NEWS FROM MEI MEXICO

"WHAT HAPPENS IN MEXICO, SAVES MEXICO"

The cartel in Southern Mexico is now a greater threat. The more gangs that move into our area, the more dangerous it becomes. The state of Quintana Roo has always been a drug trafficking state; however, it has become increasingly more active over the last several months. In the towns of Bacalar, Playa del Carmen and Tulum where we have churches, I have seen the Federal Police Force more frequently and very heavily armed. With all that said, we are determined to continue to preach the Gospel and plant the Lord's Church in that region. New Testament churches need to be present in the State, because the opportunity to reach thousands for Christ remains our top priority. I look forward to going back to Mexico on the 2nd of December. The churches in Bacalar, Tulum and Playa del Carmen are doing well. We've had 16 baptisms so far this year, distributed hundreds of tracts, preached many meetings in the local parks, conducted VBS for over 200 hundred children, taught several home Bible studies, fed meals to the poor, hosted 2 free medical clinics, given free hair cuts to the homeless men, bought land and built a church building in Tulum and hosted 4 mission trips. It has been a very fruitful ministry in 2017. We are excited to see what God will do through MEI in 2018. Come On Along With Us!

Do You Remember the Sears Christmas Catalog?

It was called the “Wish Book.” My siblings and I couldn’t wait until the Christmas catalog arrived in the mail. We would sit for hours, scanning through the pages, circling the items we wanted from Santa. Of course we knew there was no way we were going to get everything we wanted, but it was great fun to look at all those toys. Dad and Mom would finally bring us down to reality by instructing us to choose only 4 or 5 of the toys we really would like to have under the tree. When it was all said and done we would unwrap one or two of the toys we selected, also receiving a few gifts we really needed such as clothes and shoes for the New Year. We were very fortunate to have parents who provided and loved us so much, desiring for us to have something special at Christmas.



During this season of Giving, I am asking you to take a look at our Mission Explosion International Christmas Wish List. We have children, widows and very poor families who will not have the opportunity like you or I to give gifts to their children, grandchildren or parents for Christmas. Many children do not even have adequate food, clothing and shelter throughout the year. This is the time for you to shine like stars in the lives of the poor of India and Mexico. Remember it was our Lord who said, “It is more blessed to Give than to Receive.” Your monetary gifts of love will make this Christmas very special for those who can only dream of the opportunity to look through a Christmas catalog and having the financial ability to select whatever their hearts desire as we do here in America. You have the means to make a memory and help MEI share Christ, the “Reason for the Season,” with many poor families.

I am not asking you to fill a shoebox full of cheap toys and toiletries, which will be used up and broken in a matter of days, and will cost more than its contents to ship overseas. I’m asking you to give a gift that will keep on giving throughout the year. Gifts the poor really need to sustain their lives for months to come. I am asking you to commit to giving a gift that will open doors for MEI to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ to lost families by showing them we care about their lives and their souls. We are not talking about just a free handout to the poor, but assistance in their time of need, helping them get back on their feet to find jobs and to have pride in taking care of their families. Young women with small children have lost their husbands to death or abandonment. They are struggling to care for their children. The elderly are suffering from malnourishment because they do not have proper food during the week.

The needs are great! However, the cost to meet these needs will be less if many of you will partner with MEI to help. Our MEI Christmas Wish List is short. We are not asking for hundreds of dollars. We are not asking for you to purchase many items. We are just asking for the basics for their lives. We need gifts that will make a difference in their lives by providing help and the chance for us to share the message of Jesus, our Savior, with them. We simply need Bibles, Food, Clothes and Toys for the children. Will you give a gift that will keep on giving throughout the year? Please take a look at our Wish List and pray about your decision to send your financial gift this Christmas season as we reach out to help the poor and needy in India and Mexico.

Please send your gifts to MEI today so we have enough time to purchase the items before Christmas. You can send a check to the above address, marked for Christmas, or go to our website at www.MissionExplosion.com and send your donation on our secure PayPal account by clicking on the donate tab. We look forward to sending you photos of the folks receiving your gifts provided.

Mission Explosion’s Christmas Wish List

We Need Rice For Poor Families



Rice Is The Staple Food For Both India And Mexico

\$20 will buy a 50 lb. bag of Rice for a family.

A bag of rice will feed a family of 5 people, 3 meals a day, for 1 month.

How Many Bags Of Rice Can You Provide To Feed Poor Families This Christmas?

We need Bibles for those who have never had a copy of God's Word



\$25 will buy 5 Bibles for the poor in India who desire to learn from God's Word, \$50 will buy 12 Tamil or Telugu language Bibles, \$100 will buy 25 Bibles and \$200 will buy 50 Bibles. \$45 will purchase a



case of 24 Spanish Bibles for Mexico. *The greatest gift anyone can give or receive is a Bible!*

How Many Copies Of The Bible Can You Provide This Christmas?

Toys and Clothes for the Children and a New Dress for the Widows

Why fill a shoebox full of cheap plastic toys and toiletries that will be used up in a few weeks or less? Plus the enormous cost of shipping the boxes overseas. Why not just send a gift of \$10 per child that you will greatly bless this Christmas? What will your \$10 purchase for each child? Each child will receive a new toy, a set of new clothes, and a pair of shoes or sandals. Each time they wear their new clothes, they will be reminded of the gift of love someone from America gave them for Christmas. Our Freedom House children, as well as the poor children and widows in the churches, will be very grateful for their new clothes. We have approximately 260 children in India and 65 in Mexico. We have 45 widows in both countries combined. For just a \$100 you can give 10 children or widows a wonderful Christmas.

How Many Children And Widows Can You Bless This Christmas?

