

THE WAY OF THE CROSS MINISTRIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of Way of the Cross is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and train others to do the same. The Gospel that we preach is that the individual can be saved from sin through the blood of Christ. The objective of such evangelism is to establish indigenous churches and to provide for the training of national pastors and leaders.

Way of the Cross seeks to show the **compassion of JESUS** to the poor, needy and the afflicted by the sharing of food, clothing, medicine and medical supplies as God provides.

Way of the Cross seeks to serve as a means through which churches may work together in missionary activities, may direct their missionary funds, and may refer those of their people who are called into missionary service.

CHARACTER

Way of the Cross is an evangelical organization concerned with propagating the Gospel of the grace of God as revealed in the Scriptures. It is evangelistic in that its members regard the winning of souls to Christ as a primary objective. Closely aligned with this is the desire to establish believers in the Word of God and encourage them to memorize the Word so that they may go forth as witnesses seeking others who are lost in sin.

ORGANIZATION

A self-perpetuating Board of Directors who are responsible for the work in accordance with the spirit and purpose of the Articles of Incorporation and By-laws that governs Way of the Cross Ministries. They are the final authority under God for the conduct of the work. The officers of the board shall be President and Director, Vice-president, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Members of the Board of Directors shall be men who give evidence of a born again, separated life. By a separated life it is to be understood that a man be morally upright and that he be a member in good standing of a Bible believing Church.

There may also be an Advisory Board of undetermined number, selected by the Board of Directors, the members of which shall have the privilege of attendance at the annual Board meeting, information, fellowship, and discussion at such meetings but no voting privilege.

Way of the Cross Ministries is located in the Rio Grand Valley; it is as far south as you can go before leaving the United States. The Rio Grande Valley encompasses both sides of the United States and the Mexican border. It is home to upwards of 2 1/2 million people. It is known for having two of the poorest counties in the United States. Low wages high unemployment and below average median income is a way of life. It is also known for a rapidly growing population along the Mexican side. We are just 5 hours southeast of San Antonio and 6 hours southwest of Houston. Unique describes the area in which Way of the Cross operates.

Since the early months of 1988, when a group of Christian laymen mobilized in the name of Jesus Christ to assist a children's home in the red light district of Matamoras, Mexico a vision was born to take the gospel to the streets.

The Lord has blessed us with a 200,000 square foot warehouse located in Harlingen, Texas. From this warehouse we serve over 1200 ministries working mostly in Mexico with the written Word, food, medicine, clothing and medical supplies. From this warehouse we assist over 15000 individuals who live in the poorest region of the US, along the US/Mexican border. We have daily services for spiritual growth and assist with the basic needs of life. It is our deepest desire to put into action our love for one another.

In 1996 a work was started in Aldama, Mexico. The Lord has been faithful to provide the people and the finances to provide facilities that are now available to short term missionaries. Already the Lord is sending us groups that will carry the Gospel into a new region of Mexico. We are excited to see our Fathers plan unfolding before our eyes.

In 2000 a work was started in Nuevo Padilla, Mexico by purchasing a large home in the community. Since that time a second home has been purchased next door to the original home. The Lord is blessing this new area of work with a great harvest of souls in the community and surrounding area.

The opportunities for a greater harvest have never been better. For years many seeds have been planted by many thousands of short term missionaries who have come and invested their time, sweat, finances and gone home, continued to pray and support the Lord's work. One of greatest needs is for others to come and join us here in all the exciting things that the Lord is doing here at Way of the Cross Ministries.

IN THE BEGINNING

Way of the Cross Ministries began in January 1988, when it became known that a children's home in Matamoras, Mexico was in desperate need of assistance. Ben Butler of Harlingen, Texas and an eventual co-founder of the ministry brought the home's plight before a group of Christian laymen.

After taking a building once used as a house of prostitution and turning it into children's home with running water, plumbing and electricity, we dedicated it to the Lord and celebrated with volunteers from both sides of the border. There was food for all and the Lord provided a powerful evangelist to preach the Word of God from the top of a converted school bus. There was a great harvest of souls that day. Little did anyone know that The Way of the Cross Ministries was being born.

One vision for the ministry was to acquire a bus so that they could deliver God's Word to the people when and wherever the Lord directed. In the spring of 1989 with the help of a local church, an old school bus was purchased. The bus was painted and fitted with a platform stage, lighting system, sound system and a 20-foot lighted cross. The Way of the Cross rolled into action in April of 1989.

The group began taking the bus into different Colonias throughout Matamoras. They visited areas where poverty abounds, where there is no electricity or running water and the people literally live in shacks. They went to preach the gospel, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and experienced tremendous results.

It became apparent that a formal organization had to be formed. A Board of Advisors was added, and a formal plan of operation developed to insure that the Lord's work would be properly done and that His resources would be used wisely. In the spring of 1989, Brother Ben Butler and Murry McLean created THE WAY OF THE CROSS MINISTRIES. By the end of 1990 the ministry became a full-time organization.

Presently we are serving over 1200 ministries with Bibles, food, clothing, and medicine. Some are only a few blocks away and some reach deep into the heart of Mexico. The needs are great and the harvest is ripe!

In the beginning, the needs were shared with other believers and God used the prayers and the people to meet those needs. Today we continue to share the needs asking all to pray for the work that continues on.

SHORT TERM MISSIONARY TRIPS

One of the most exciting parts of the ministry is the Short Term Missionaries. Way of the Cross is dependent on individuals like you who will come and share their time in the ministry. Way of the Cross is a conduit for those to whom God has called to get personally involved with missions. We strive to maintain an atmosphere where you can come and learn more about our Father, learn more about yourself and have an opportunity to share JESUS with a lost and dying person in a place you have never been and with those you have never met.

The most common response we hear from those who have chosen to come and be involved in the work is "We have never been closer to the Lord, prayed so much, worked so hard, been so tired and been as blessed as we have during the time we have been at Way of the Cross. It has changed our lives we will never be the same." We hope you will take time to pray about coming as an individual or as part of a group to be a part of all the exciting things that the Lord is doing here at the ministry.