



Family Missions Company

From the Desk of

JAMES Franke



DEAREST FAMILY, FRIENDS, & BENEFACTORS

Peace and joy in Jesus Christ! I am writing to say that I have not been lost in some foreign land! I have not fallen off of the face of the earth! Instead, I find myself writing after so long, wondering how on earth I will be able to fit the last few months of my missionary life into this brief newsletter!

My life since coming home from Europe has been full of the Lord's blessings each and every day, without fail! For the most part, these last few months, I have been living in Mexico, serving the poor of General Cepeda. This past March I was able to help lead a group from Franciscan University, my Alma Mater! It was on the FUS trip that I first heard my missionary calling one year earlier! After an incredible week with this group, reliving in a sense, the incredible experience I had on my very first mission trip, the Lord made it very clear to me that it was now time to grow, to step outside of the box, to humble myself. I found that the answer to all of these things was for me to enroll in language school.

Flying down to Mexico City, I then bussed out to Cuernavaca and began a full month of immersion, learning Spanish at a language school. Coming home from language school, I then moved full-time to living in General Cepeda, where I would stay until this past August. While there, we were blessed to receive four short-term mission groups: a family group from Alabama, a youth group from Philadelphia, a group of priests and seminarians from Mount St. Mary's in Maryland, and finally a young adult group from Denver.

Each of these groups came down ready to serve and on fire to help build the Kingdom of God here in Mexico. Our ministry ranged from building homes and repairing roofs, to visiting the sick and homebound and sending out Evangelism teams to the local desert communities each night. The diversity amongst the groups was a blessing, seeing how the Lord uses ALL of us to help Him in the building of His Kingdom! The family groups with young children were a witness to all of what it truly means to be a family for the Lord, the domestic church. The teens and young adults were able to minister and become friends with the local youth, showing them that it is possible to seek holiness amidst the difficulties that come with being young. The priests and seminarians came with a fire to shepherd the Lord's beloved children, bringing to them the Sacraments, which the people are so thirsting for, in an abundant way that is never available to them! As full-time missionaries, these groups came to us with a fresh wave of enthusiasm and excitement for missions! The Lord continued to renew us and bless our work. For me, with my Spanish getting better each day, I was amazed at how the Lord was calling me to serve Him with this new gift, being able to preach and pray with others in their own language began to transform my ministry!

I would love to write pages upon pages talking about each of these trips, but to keep this letter a little more brief than that, I can direct you to check out my online blog at: www.missionaryjames.wordpress.com, which is full of pictures and updates on each of these summer trips and of the past few months!



In August, it was becoming apparent that the Lord was calling me to something new for the time being. This September marks the 10th year of FMC's Intake, our three-month period of formation at Big Woods, forming new missionaries to be sent out. In this jubilee year of ours, the Lord has blessed us with our largest group of new missionaries ever! This being the case, the Lord called me back to our mission base to help with the missionary formation.

Having committed to being here until December, the end of Intake, Family Missions Company then asked if I would also consider being the Short Term Missions Coordinator.

What this means is that I am in charge of

organizing, planning and leading groups into short-term missions! Sending out short-term mission trips of one of FMC's greatest apostolates, as it allows us to expose others to the incredible life that is missions, opening their eyes to the truth and the need of our brothers and sisters across the world! Excited about this new temporary opportunity, we already have a number of trips planned to Mexico, Ecuador and Spain, with hopes of expanding these trips and adding more! We welcome groups of all ages, families, young adults, church groups and more! If you are interested in ever going on a short-term trip or if you know of a group of friends or family who would like to go, just let me know!

Anyway, I am sorry that this update has been so long in the works! I look forward to writing you all again very soon! again like to say to check out my blog for greater detail, about these past few months! I would love to be in contact with you all, apart from this tiny newsletter, so feel free to write me at missions.james@gmail.com!

Thank you all so much for your continued prayers and donations to this mission, to His mission! We remember that, "whoever in the name of a disciple gives to one of these little ones **even a cup of cold water to drink...** he shall not lose his reward." (Mt 10:42)

In Him,

James Franke

Intentions

For the Lord's peace to quickly come upon the people of Mexico and that His protection would always hold His faithful safe and close to His Sacred Heart!

That the Lord would pour out His grace and blessings upon this year's Intake, forming them into the missionaries He is calling them to be!

For Family Missions Company and its apostolates, especially their Short Term Missions, that the Lord would call many young men, women, and families to serve Him in the building of His Kingdom!

For the Lord's guidance in planning our pilgrimages to this year's March for Life and World Youth Day; that He would provide the finances and resources necessary for each!

