



# MISSION MATTERS in the MOUNTAIN STATE

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## BECAUSE MISSION MATTERS

Each of us this Christmas season gave and received gifts. It is a tradition as old as Christmas itself. The Magi brought their gifts to Jesus as an act of worship. It is likely those gifts sustained Joseph, Mary and Jesus in their time of exile in Egypt. They gave gifts that made a difference!

The most important Christmas gift, of course, is the gift of Jesus himself. “For God so loved the world that he gave...” God gave us the gift of salvation through the sending of Jesus into the world “that the world, through him, might be saved.” I think you would agree – God gave a gift that made a difference!

I get great enjoyment out of watching family open the gifts that I give. As I watch the look on their faces as they realize what is being revealed as the package is opened, I can tell how they feel about the gift. I want them to like every gift. I want them to be surprised. I like to give gifts that make a difference!

Lisa and I support our missionaries because we like our giving to make a difference. We support our church because we like our giving to make a difference. We support the mission and ministries of the West Virginia Baptist Convention because we like our giving to make a difference.

I get asked by people in churches – “What is our money doing? Where does the money we send you go?” I think the root of these questions is that people really want to know that their gifts are important and that their gifts are making a difference. I can assure you every gift given to the West Virginia Baptist Convention is important and makes a tremendous difference in countless lives. I can also assure you every dollar given to support our missionaries has an impact on thousands of people around the world.

While it is true that I am not there to see the faces of those who receive my gifts to missions or to my church for that matter; I know my gifts are making an eternal difference because of the lives being changed through missions.

We give because God gave! We give because our gifts make a difference!  
We give because Mission Matters!



*Our mission is to empower local churches to be Christ honoring communities of faith, and to help them fulfill their mission by enabling them to do together what they cannot do alone.*

## Support our West Virginia Mission Partners



Endorsed Missionaries  
to Mexico  
Juan & Denise Aragon

Denise and Juan will serve in partnership with the Council of Rural Indigenous Evangelicals of Mexico (Consejo Indígena Campesino Evangélico de México, CICEM) in Chiapas, Mexico.

In this time when we celebrate God's greatest gift of love, we also rejoice for your prayers and partnership. Your commitment and faithfulness to God's mission will enable us to share Christ's hope, peace, joy, and love with the people of Chiapas. Our family prays you have a Merry Christmas and a great new year!

Blessings, Juan & Denise

**40% of monthly support is committed**

Greetings from sunny Mexico! This past year has been full of excitement and transitions. Boyden is finishing his first semester of college. Baillie is applying to five different colleges, girls bible study leader and she is one of the leaders for the praise band at her school. We all have been super busy but we are looking forward to spending the next six weeks together.

God has blessed us with a beautiful ministry. Every time we are in our communities our love grows deeper for our brothers and sisters here in Mexico. The chicken project has been blessed by your love for God. Thank you so much for loving Him and us. Please continue to keep all of the CICEM churches we work with (33) in your prayers. Thank you for your love and support of the ministry and us. We think of you often and pray for you. Enjoy each and everyday to the fullest. Walk in the Lord's glory! With Love, the Myers Family



International Missionaries  
to Mexico  
Keith & Debbie Myers

**100% of monthly support is committed**



International Missionaries  
to Bolivia  
JD & Rhonda Reed

JD. and Rhonda Reed were commissioned for service in Bolivia at their home church in July of 2011. They are serving in partnership with the Unión Bautista Boliviana and live in the city of Santa Cruz de la Sierra. Their primary focus will be to aid in development of leadership in the areas of theology, planting new churches and beginning to develop new ministries in the southern part of Bolivia. Last year, the Reeds expanded their ministry to include overseeing the House of Hope (Proyectos Esperanza) in Cochabamba, which focuses on urban ministries to families, at-risk women and children in the department of Cochabamba.

Language used in ministry: Spanish

**92.0% of monthly support is committed**

Greetings from.....WEST VIRGINIA!!!

Yes, I arrived on Thanksgiving Day and have been working with my son, Drew, to establish our home. It looks like it will take a while yet, because we have items from my old house, Drew's household, my mom and dad's, and even my youngest son, Dean's. After Christmas, I will be traveling to Wisconsin. The first of February, I am looking forward to visiting with any of you who would like to know more about missions in the Philippines. I have some engagements in March-April, and then a couple of weekends in June/July/August, but I am just beginning to schedule. If I can be of service to you, please contact me at [dmulneix@aol.com](mailto:dmulneix@aol.com), or mailing address: 518 Pennsylvania Avenue, Bridgeport, WV 26330. I hope to see many of you in the next few months.

Love in Christ to you all, Debbie



International Missionary  
to Philippines  
Debbie Mulneix

**92.0% of monthly support is committed**



International Missionaries  
to South Africa  
Rick & Anita Gutierrez

Greetings West Virginia Baptist Brothers and Sisters, We are blessed to celebrate the season of our Savior born on earth with you. Thanks to your personal support in South Africa since 2008 and in Hungary last summer we are growing the kingdom together in Bible fellowships, health capacity building, poultry and food plant production. We are inviting you back to Hungary for summer 2017 and will have a group to South Africa the following year. Thank you for loving support and prayers to keep us on the path, and Out of This World Salsa too!

Rick, Anita, Marc and Paul Gutierrez

**100% of monthly support is committed**

**Camp Global summer 2017 will be held at Camp Cowen August 11-13, 2017.  
Mark your calendar to join us.**