

SHOP TALK SPECIAL EDITION



It's the personal connection that makes the difference.

Mexico Outreach 2024

The Lynden Family of Companies sponsored another outreach trip to Uruapan, Baja California, Mexico from May 21 – May 31 where they partnered with Missions Network International. The team of 18 represented nine different companies and branches and their mission was to build friendships with their coworkers, build relationships with the community of Uruapan, to challenge themselves and grow personally, and to bless the ministry in a tangible way by working hard and completing projects. The team poured their time and energy into building a home for a family in the community, finishing work on three other homes, weeding the campus grounds, and much more. The following pages are the personal stories and experiences from several of our team members.



Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

2024 Mexico Outreach was an amazing time serving and helping a community of wonderful people at Mt of Olives Children's Village, Uruapan BC Mexico, Thank you Lynden Door Family of Companies.

I have been blessed by being allowed to help lead the team this year. The team worked hard at fundraising and putting together all things to make this outreach successful. It was a privilege to work with a group of amazing coworkers to build a house for Fatima and her 3 kids, finish 2 others houses, among other smaller projects, there is always something to do there.

It was wonderful to get to know some of my coworkers better and begin new friendships with ones I hadn't met before. I appreciate and miss this team already!



Playing and interacting with the kids at Mt of Olives Children's Village was so much fun, even with the language barrier we all seemed to figure out "fun". We did crafts, played games, played soccer (though I watched), the energy the kids have is so fun to see. They love to be loved on and enjoyed having all of us to just hang out with them.

I have been blessed to go 2 other times to Uruapan BC MX so going back and getting to see some of the same kids, and how they are growing up, loved and cared for, is so heart warming. Seeing some go off to college, and some stay at the Village and work there with the younger kids. You can see and feel the love that Bill and Jenn have for the kids at Mt of Olives and also how much they want to help the community around them. They are an inspiration and the people there are blessed by them. God is using Bill and Jenn in some amazing ways.

I cannot encourage each of you enough, to consider applying next year, you will not regret it, you will be blessed more than you can ever imagine and come home with a truly new perspective in life.

- Lori Brown

Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

I am so grateful for the opportunity to go on this outreach trip again. It was awesome to be able to play with some of the same kids at Mount of Olives as last year and see how much they have grown. Their smiles were even bigger and brighter! We were also able to visit Alejandra's family and see them thoroughly enjoying the house we built last year.

Our team was just as amazing this year, and it was such a pleasure getting to know everyone. You can work right alongside someone for years and not get to know them as well as you will in the short time span of an outreach trip. We started as co-workers but ended the trip as friends. Physically working hard with the team, playing games at the end of each night, sharing meals & stories, and the many hours spent traveling together learning and laughing in the vans created unforgettable memories that I will always cherish.



I was able to spend more time with the children at Mount of Olives on this trip. It was such a blessing to interact with them through arts & crafts, playing down in their courtyard, bringing them up for games, and the final celebration night. I loved seeing their faces light up at every new activity we did.

Our team was able to accomplish so much with building Fatima's house, putting the finishing touches on Mario and Geno's homes, and painting the outside of Oscars Aunt's house. We were able to touch many lives in the community of Uruapan, but they all blessed our lives just as much.

- Stacy Sires

Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

It was truly an honor to be a part of the outreach program in Mexico, I gained so many memories with such amazing people, I have no one experience or memory to fall back on as being my favorite, they all are, but meeting everyone on day 1 and how quickly we came together on day 2 to begin our goal, extremely gratifying, everyone helping one another, regardless of experience.

Meeting wonderful people from Lynden and learning what they do, fellow Canadians as well, and assuring the Americans we really were as funny and kind in person as they hear about.

Seeing the drastic differences when comparing my life and the life of the people of the small town we were visiting in will forever be a constant reminder that we/I need to be better, we take such little things for granted that these people would be blessed with and are more than deserving of.

The biggest impact personally was knowing we were leaving after making an impact, big or small. Our end goal was to provide a safe home to a wonderful woman and her 3 children, knowing what they were leaving behind and hearing the stories about the horrible winter they had to endure, it was pure joy seeing their faces almost



daily, but especially the last day knowing they were mere days away of moving in... although still sad we were unable to complete it before we left.

I want to thank everyone involved, I think I can speak for everyone that we all had a truly remarkable 10 days together, not one day passed that I didn't feel blessed to be a part of this trip and hope to be a part of another one day.

A quick thank you to the wonderful ladies in the kitchen, you created incredible meals daily and had nothing but smiles when we bombarded the living area. To Oscar and Javier, 2 of the hardest workers I have ever come across, I am so deeply proud that I was able to work with both of them directly, they taught me some things I didn't know and some things I thought I did know but learned the Mexican way was better!

Lastly, but definitely most important, thank you to Bill and Jenn, without their daily drive to make other people's lives better, their never ending love for what they do and their children of Mount of Olives who were so much fun to see and play games with, their belief in God that no matter what, they would be pointed in the direction they were meant to be in, I hope we meet again.

- Isaak Dyck



Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

Leading up to the trip, I was a bit nervous because I was unsure what to expect. Even with our alumni sharing their experiences from previous trips, it hits differently when you see it firsthand. This project has involved some exceptionally talented people, and it's been a humbling experience to work with them. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to experience a little of what Bill and Jen live every day, showing the community the Lord's work. Their organization is truly a life preserver for such a small town.

Working alongside Oscar and Javi is an experience I will never forget. The patience they exhibit in managing different people at their job sites while maintaining organized projects is remarkable. Oscar's effort to learn everyone's name and ensure that each person was contributing effectively was particularly inspiring. Patti and Rosa are exceptionally talented in



the kitchen, and there was so much good food! Hanging out with the kids was also a fun experience. Whether it was playing soccer, doing arts and crafts, or just enjoying the playground, the kids were always happy to have people to play with. The most impactful part of this mission trip for me was visiting the migrant camps. At one stop, we saw their school, which consisted of a tarp, a couple of benches, and a chalkboard. I admire how Bill and Jen invest back into the community, supporting local businesses and giving the women in the camps the opportunity to showcase and sell their handmade jewelry.

This mission trip has been a profoundly humbling experience. Witnessing the dedication of Bill and Jen, the patience and leadership of Oscar and Javi, the culinary talents of Patti and Rosa, and the joy and resilience of the children and migrant communities has deeply touched me. The kindness, hard work, and sense of community I encountered have left a lasting impact on my heart. I return home with a renewed perspective on gratitude, service, and the power of compassion. This journey has truly shown me the profound difference a committed group of individuals can make in the lives of others.

- Rodrigo De La Garza

Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

My time at Mount of Olives is something I will never forget, from getting the opportunity to meet our amazing coworkers from all of our family of companies to the wonderful people I had the pleasure of meeting in Mexico. This experience will forever hold a special place in my heart. This trip was very different from what I had expected it to be (it may be that I have never been to Mexico) but none the less it was a fabulous time and experience. Bill and Jenn who run the orphanage are incredible people. One thing that has stuck in my mind was Bill telling us to not leave there feeling guilty, as easy as that sounds...it's not! The only thing that is keeping me from not feeling guilt is Bill had said that they don't know what we have or want what we have, all that they want is to get through their days and to have meals to eat, clothes to wear, a bed to sleep in and a roof over their heads. To get the chance to build a home for a family in great need was an overwhelming experience, to see the look of gratitude on Fatima's face brought tears to my eyes, what a beautiful experience to be a part of. Thank you, Lynden Door!



Spending time with the children was wonderful, to see their little faces light up when we presented activities and our time to them was worth everything, even though there was a language barrier they were happy to join in the activities and interact with everyone. This was the high light of my trip, being able to brighten these little peoples' faces.

Also, a huge thank you to the wonderful ladies in the kitchen. I have Celiac Disease and they took great care of me each day and made my stay in Mexico a great one. From the bottom of my heart thank you all so much for this experience.

- Andrea Gibot

Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

Visiting Mount of Olives was easily one of the most rememberable experiences I've had in my 22 brief years of life. The people, the work, the food, and the small town in general really made you feel the presence of the lord everywhere you went.

Being able to meet everyone I did was truly remarkable. Just the employees alone that I had never met before, were all such wholesome individuals and I am blessed to have been able to spend those short 11 days with them. I don't think I need to say much about Bill and Jenn because I think we can all agree that they are a true inspiration and a beautiful example of the Jesus' work. Being able to work alongside Oscar and Javi brought me so much joy as well. Talking with Oscar, I can see how the lord has done his work on him, and I am now striving to be the humble man he is. Thinking about all of the talents those two young men have is so incredible. On top of that, the fact that they are using their talents to better the community and bless other families is inspiring as well. Lastly, the kids there are a huge part of what truly made the trip memorable. Being able to see the smile on their faces all the times I did, made my day every single time. Even though, compared to kids back home they really don't have a whole lot, you can tell they are extremely grateful for everything in their lives. The one thing those kids are blessed to have is the full presence of Jesus looking over their orphanage at all times.

Being able to learn so much as we worked on the houses throughout the week was awesome for me. I love being able to learn new things, especially knowledge as useful as what we learned about construction. From the basics on concrete to framing and drywall, I am blessed to

have been able to learn these skills from such great teachers. Going into this trip I was a little unsure if I was going to like building a house, but I will tell you that doing it for the reason we did make it so much easier to get up in the morning and be excited to go to work.

The food and the community were so amazing. The three ladies in the kitchen were such incredible cooks and people as well, and I won't forget some of the brief conversations I had with them. The language barrier didn't make it easy, but that's what made the conversations that much more interesting. The small town of Uruapan is such a special little community. It feels so good to see smiles on everyone's faces everywhere you go. As I said with the orphanage, you can truly feel the presence of Jesus throughout the town.

I remember being extremely hesitant to sign up for this trip because I didn't know too much about it. I thought it was going to be a lot of work and that I was going to want to be home sooner than later. Towards the end of the trip however, I understood so much more about Bill and Jenn's decision to get up and move their lives down to this small town in Mexico. All in all, this trip was so amazing. I cannot wait to go back one day and reconnect with all of the beautiful people that live there and have another unforgettable experience.

- Jackson Phillips



Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

This trip to Mexico is definitely going to stay in my memory. It was a great blessing to be able to leave everything and go to help a family in need. One of the most humbling things for me was the level of happiness of the people. As long as their family is by them, they have food on the table and a roof over their head they are happy. Sometimes I find myself having all those things and sometimes not being grateful. The trip as a whole was a great experience and an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends.

- Vadim

What an incredible opportunity and blessing it was to be part of the 2024 Mexico Outreach Team.

The team leaders did a wonderful job taking care of so many details to make the travel for a big group run so smoothly. The extra work fun began in the months prior to the trip with all the fundraising activities. The support from our coworkers, families and community was heartfelt and amazing. So many connections were made before we even left for Mexico.



Having fun with the kids at the orphanage was a primary highlight for me. Teaching tie dye, painting faces, laughing, playing and the final get together Pinata party just to name a few. These precious kids brought out the inner kid in me and awoke a spirit of childlike faith for me to explore. This takes a humble and dependent attitude towards God with a simple and trusting heart.

If you talk to anyone that has gone previously to Mount of Olives, they will tell you the food is amazing. I fully agree and can tell you it is made with LOVE. I enjoyed doing dishes and getting to know the ladies in the kitchen, Hilda, Rosa, and Patti. They helped me use the Spanish I've learned so far and taught me more. I had the song sheet from the LDI Spanish Chapel service with me and we sang those songs together one morning. They worked with me, laughed with me, and hugged me like they were my mama. I miss them.

I would do this all again in a heartbeat. I believe there is something to explore for everyone. I strongly encourage any employee to apply for a spot on the next Outreach team. Any doubts or questions? Please feel free to reach out to me.

- Carol Rohwer

Mexico Outreach 2024 (cont.)

Where else can you get to go travel to a foreign country, use muscles that I did not know existed, try new things, bless others and be part of an amazing experience, all without having to take time off work!

It is truly an honor to be a part of the Lynden Family of Companies. We are given the opportunity to participate in this trip that lives up to our Statement of Purpose. In short, to honor God in all we do, grow and develop people, and invest in community. No other company, that I know, has ever lived out their statement of purpose in this way.

I am so thankful for this opportunity. I went to Mexico barely knowing one third of the group and came back with new friends and shared experiences that will be with me for a lifetime. I learned new skills, tried new food, met some amazing people, got a new nickname, and learned that no matter what life throws your way, you can always smile.

If you have never had this opportunity, apply next year! If you have applied in the past and not been accepted, apply again!

A special thanks to Laura, Lori, Stacy & John for all your hard work in the background, for keeping us out of trouble, and bringing us all home safely!

- Kelly Skeels



The trip to Uruapan was amazing. We got to partner up with Bill and Jenn at Mount of Olives Children's Village which provides them stability and security in a family atmosphere. We had a great time building a house and a lot of memories.

- Paula Wogan