

January 23, 2013

# MISSIONS HIGHLIGHT

## A LightShine Christmas

Edited by Joshua Kirby



Jeremy and one of his sponsor children during Christmas



## A MISSIONS TESTIMONY FROM ONE OF OUR OWN...

**“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” - Acts 1:8**

I wanted to take some time via written word to share a mission's testimony of one of our members here at Rocky Mountain Calvary. I hope that testimonies like Jeremy's will clearly communicate our mission's vision as a church and also serve to "stir up love and good works" (Hebrews 10:24) in each other.

This Christmas, Jeremy Drago was able to travel down to Chihuahua, Mexico in order to support an RMC adopted community of Tarahumara indians in the community of Soledad (Chihuahua, Mexico) through a ministry called LightShine. He and I were able to sit down recently and talk about the trip. Our goal is to communicate to you, the body of RMC, what the Lord is doing in Mexico with the ministry of LightShine. - Joshua Kirby

### Jeremy Drago

**Q:** Tell me about who you are... (kids, job, involvement at RMC, etc...)

**A:** I am a single parent of two kids... I am a self-employed electrician. I have been going to RMC for 10-11 years now. I was saved as a kid in VBS. I have lived in Colorado my whole life and I grew up in Monument.

**Q:** When/how did you gain a passion for missions?

**A:** In reality it was about 13 years ago when I was attending a different church. They had a ministry in Mexico. Although I was never able to go I remember that ministry capturing my heart for missions.



**LightShine Team** preparing the Christmas gift baskets for the sponsor children and their families

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# "WE WERE ABLE TO TELL OF THE LOVE OF CHRIST AND THEN TO SHOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST."

I felt God telling me to go on the Chihuahua 2011 mission trip down to Soledad. We built the foundations for the LightShine building that is now there. More importantly we were the first team from RMC to go down in order to serve the LightShine ministry. That is what I remember most from that trip; that we were able to establish new relationships with the LightShine ministry in Soledad as a representative for RMC.

## The Mission

**Q:** Tell me about LightShine

**A:** In reality to me its just like the name; LightShine. God, his light shining into the community of Soledad through the program LightShine. Its not just about sponsoring a child; its about reaching the families through the children. And its not even about LightShine as a program, the main goal is to reach the Tarahumara with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Soledad is definitely a dark place, and you can really feel it when you are down there. But, watching these kids as they grow and mature with their smiles is amazing.

**Q:** What is child sponsorship?

**A:** The biggest part about it [sponsorship] is building the relationships with the children; praying with them/for them and sending them letters and encouragement. And that their families might see the light shining through these kids that are sponsored into their homes. Supporting with finances is not even the greatest part/need. It is the actual relationship that you can have with these kids through letters, prayer, photos, and visiting them in person during a mission trip.

**Q:** What are the names of your sponsor kids?

**A:** Miriam and Fernanda.

**Q:** Tell me a story about your sponsor children.

**A:** *Miriam*

She is 13 years old, will be 14 in September. She is more of a shy kid, but she just told me recently this year that she accepted Christ into her life. And I feel that special connection with her like she is part of our family because we have been sending letters back and forth this whole time. And just getting to see her the times that I have been down there... it feels like you are leaving a kid behind when you leave. I've even had the opportunity to help out in her class during a LightShine day and it was a blessing to see how she interacted with her teacher and the other students.

*Fernanda*

She is actually the exact opposite of Miriam. She is really bubbly and outgoing. We just recently started sponsoring her. She has a smile that will light up the room. My daughter was on a mission trip with us and it was like a sister thing between them. And we had the chance to spend time with her and to take her out and stuff like that.

## LightShine Christmas

**Q:** Tell me about this trip down to Soledad, Mexico in the middle of December (i.e. what was your purpose in going?).

**A:** My purpose in going was just to help and serve with whatever the LightShine team needed while I was down there. This year I was able to make it down there, last year I

just couldn't make it. I not only wanted to help but I wanted to be able to see my sponsor children again. I also wanted to be a part of the Christmas event. I was also going down in order to represent RMC in our adopted community. They actually made me speak to the entire community that came out.

Jeremy and Chris Nickerson setting up for the Christmas program



**Q:** Tell me about the Christmas program itself.

**A:** We were able to serve the families and the sponsor children a meal and to give them household items as Christmas gifts. The program itself consisted of the sponsor kids getting up in front of their families and performing songs and plays that they had prepared.

**Q:** What was the heart behind the night?

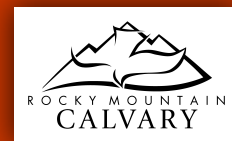
**A:** To me it would be representing the love of Christ by bringing the family and community together by celebrating that [Christmas]. And as being Christians we wanted to make sure that each family went away with something. We were able to give out essential food and household items to each family. We were able to tell of the love of Christ and then to show the love of Christ.

## LightShine Prayer Requests...

- \* Pray for the workers; that God would strengthen them and equip them to do the tasks that he has called them to.
- \* Pray for the children; that they would have a personal, saving relationship with Christ.

## Missionary Bio:

**Chris and Heather Nickerson -**  
Ministering at the church plant Capilla Calvario Chihuahua and leaders of LightShine, a sponsorship program that assists Tarahumara Indian children and their parents.



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