

PASTOR'S e-NEWSLETTER

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Our 98th Year

"The friendly little church on the Circle in Everglades City"



1926-2024



Pastor Bob & Millie

AS I SEE IT . . . Our church helped celebrate Hope Raymond's 7th birthday, which is May 30th. We did it on Sunday the 26th by singing "Happy Birthday" and gifting her with a bouquet of flowers, four cupcakes, a book, and a birthday card signed by everyone in church that Sunday. Hope is present in church most every Sunday and participates in hymn singing, Bible reading and paying close attention to the sermons. She is a delightful young lady who will be a blessing to all she meets. *Happy birthday, Hope! We love you.*



OASIS AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM HAS A NEW DIRECTOR

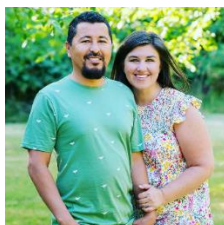
Oasis is a multi-campus educational after-school program for children and teenagers in Vicente Guerrero, Baja California, Mexico that began in August 2011. We were led to it by Mike and Wanda Collins several years ago. They suggested we include this after-school program in our Mission Program. We did! And over the years it has become the centerpiece of our mission outreach. Over 35 people make the Oasis program function in Baja on a daily basis across three locations. Every January we emphasize this wonderful program to which you are so generous, and we featured it in our February *Newsletter*; however, I thought you should meet their new Director.

We help provide a safe place for children to come after classes to receive help with their homework, learn about the Bible, eat a hot meal, have an English class, and enjoy free time to play. They are encouraged to excel in school and are equipped with the resources to succeed. There are three locations in the Valley and 250 students ages 6-18 are enrolled in the program, with a growing Wait List. The program is co-sponsored by various families and churches in the U.S., of which Everglades Community Church is one, as well as local Mexican businesses and the U.S. non-profit organization Oasis in Baja Inc.

Their current Director, Marcos Lee, decided to step down from his role to pursue a variety of endeavors including pastoring a local church, continuing his video freelancing, traveling, building his house, and more! He enhanced the Oasis program in so many wonderful ways. Everyone there is sad to see him go. But they will at least still see him around Oasis a bit, as he will continue to come by and share devotionals with the students when he can.

Ricardo Bolaños began his full-time role as Oasis Director in May. As a native of the San Quintin valley, Ricardo's journey began in the very community he now serves. After completing a technical degree in accounting, he went directly into non-profit work serving at a handful of local ministries and nonprofits, several of which collaborate and partner with Oasis. Ricardo is passionate about orphan care and supporting at-risk youth. He and his wife Andrea co-founded a non-profit organization called *BreakThrough*, dedicated to providing young men exiting orphanages with the opportunity to experience traditional family life while pursuing higher education, life skills and work experience. For the last several years, they directed a college dormitory-style home in Tijuana where they guided over 40 at-risk youth to complete high-school, enter college, and step confidently towards independence.

Through his experience in office management, accounting, team building, mentoring, and more, Ricardo brings a wealth of expertise to Oasis. His passion is making a difference in the lives of young adults and is a driving force behind his work. We look forward to seeing him apply his knowledge and experience to enrich Oasis!

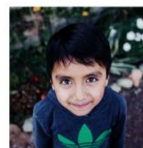
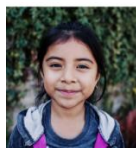


Ricardo and his wife Andrea



This wonderful group of people get together on Saturday for a fun and informative workshop along with several Board members from the States. We are so grateful for our team and all the work, time, and love they pour into the students!

OASIS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM



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