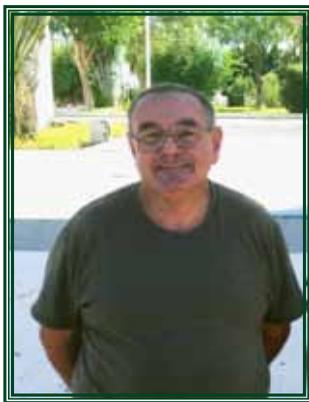


San Felipe, Mexico



Jeff Walsh

Early in October 2016, Matt Larkin, ACGC Director of Student and Family Ministries, and I (Jeff Walsh, ACGC Director of World Outreach) had the opportunity to visit Latin America Area Director John Gilbert and his wife, Bonnie, and their ministry in San Felipe, Mexico. Their ministry, *99 Plus 1*, has been a growing and developing work over the



John Gilbert

past couple of decades. They have hosted many work and ministry teams from various churches throughout the United States. Two things impressed me most from our brief visit. The first is John and Bonnie's love for the com-



San Felipe Church

munity in which they live. This was evident in the many relationships they have in San Felipe. Because of John and Bonnie, we were welcomed immediately at other ministries in San Felipe such as an adult rehabilitation center and a children's orphanage. But their relationships extend well beyond formal ministries. On a sight-seeing tour of San Felipe, we couldn't go anywhere without John stopping to introduce us to someone — a friend of their ministry, a shop owner, a retired San Diego Chargers football player! As 1 Corinthians 13:1–3 reminds us, the heart of ministry is love.

The other thing that impressed me was the wisdom John and Bonnie have gained from years of lessons learned in ministry. They shared with me the insightful story of a church in San Felipe. The pastor and members of this very materially poor church had labored hard to construct a church building that was nothing more than a shack by

American standards. A mission team from a wealthy American church came and decided to build this poor church an impressive new building, much larger and with lots of amenities like glass doors. The result was devastating for this church. Feelings of value, self-motivation and initiative were all but wiped out. The fine, new glass doors were nearly closed on ministry forever. Fortunately, the church has now recovered its rightful place in ministry and is doing well. A mission lesson learned — the hard way.

I thank the Lord for John and Bonnie Gilbert and what they taught me on this trip.

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PRAYER & Praise

December 2016



“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

(Luke 2:10 ESV)

**Join in united prayer with
other Advent Christians.**

Advent Christian
General Conference



PRAY

1. For the Christmas outreach of our American and overseas churches; may they seek to proclaim the message of the birth of Jesus into our needy world.
2. For the team of young people from the Takanini Community Church in Auckland, New Zealand, who will travel to Thailand late in December to fellowship with the leaders, members, children and young people at Christian Mission Ban Naratchakwai.
3. For the Malawi Advent Christian Conference to receive support to aid in the hunger crisis, caused by heavy floods in 2015 and lack of rainfall this year, resulting in destroyed crops.
4. For God to bless all of our ministry leaders around the world with good health and physical endurance.
5. For South African Conference President Alain Don'Tony, as he works to raise needed funds to hold a tent crusade that would give exposure to his new ministry in Port Elizabeth.
6. For our Haiti Conference as some of the churches have been damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Matthew; for those who have lost loved ones; those who are in need of humanitarian supplies; and for those who have been left homeless.
7. For the members of our local congregations that they will increase in the knowl-

edge of our Lord in all aspects of their life: physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, and most of all, spiritually.

8. For the Lord to raise up ministry candidates who have a strong burden to go and minister to our AC outreach ministries.
9. For Cristo Salva's ministry teams that will be in Honduras on January 16 – 23 and 23 – 30; the first week includes a dental clinic and construction project, and the second week's team will hold a medical clinic, distribute school items and work on a construction project.
10. For Pastor Ray Marco and the entire ministry team of Cristo Salva, that their love for Christ will be shown to the people in Honduras, and that their ministry will greatly increase the kingdom of God.
11. For AC college students, that they would complete the fall semester strong, both spiritually and academically.
12. For new believers to be faithful and strong in their faith and become disciples for Christ.

Praise

1. God for our donors who have provided hunger relief aid this year to those who have suffered from flooding and drought, and for victims of Hurricane Matthew.
2. God for the continued service of our denominational president, Rev. Paul Dean, along with the members of the ACGC

Executive Council. We are grateful for their wisdom and vision as they lead.

3. God for the 2016 Penny Crusade gifts, which will make a huge difference in our 2017 outreach ministry.
4. God for all of our ministry leaders who continue to work diligently to make a difference in their ministries.
5. God for the ministry of the Advent Christian Village as we celebrate their constant and faithful work for the Lord.
6. God for Christmas in October gifts that display a special gratitude and thanks for our current and former missionaries, current ministry leaders, conference leaders and pastors, and for these special workers who have spent so much time serving their Lord.
7. God for the ministry and service of Mrs. Jan Thomas who has worked faithfully and so effectively in our ACGC Department of Communication for many years. Blessings upon her as she retires this month.
8. God for the new believers that have come to Christ this year through our AC outreach ministries.
9. God for the 2016 mission project "Bread of Life" that has provided physical bread to feed the poor and has enabled them to hear and learn about the true Bread of Life — Jesus Christ. Donations received through the 3rd quarter of this year have fed approximately 8,300 children, widows and homeless.
10. God for the many local churches and WHFMS circles who have sacrificed so

much time and energy throughout this past year for the benefit of our ACGC Outreach work. It is truly appreciated and is certainly making a difference!

11. God for the 13 team members who made up the October Cristo Salva ministry team to Honduras. Approximately 200 people were treated in the clinic, one mobile-clinic was held, they visited a new house church, had a wonderful time of worship in the home of Pastora Gladis, and distributed food bags to very poor households.
12. God for the two young men (15 and 17 years old) who accepted Jesus during Cristo Salva's October mission trip to Honduras.

Please pray for the following ACGC Directors' and Coordinators' Activities

Pam Buchanan, *Coordinator of Women's Ministries*

Matt Larkin, *Director of Student & Family Ministries*

Steve Lawson, *Executive Director*

Justin Nash, *Director of Communication*

Dawn Rutan, *Director of Finance*

Jeff Walsh, *Director of World Outreach*

- Dec. 3 – 5: State Street Church, Portsmouth, N.H.
- Dec. 12 – 15: MissioNexus Denominational Mission Leaders, Antioch, Tenn.

Sam Warren, *Director of Nurture*

- Dec. 8 – 9: LEAD Team SE, Camp Dixie, Fayetteville, N.C.