

ten Bensel tidBits– Spring 2022



In case you didn't get our last couple of newsletters, The Connection ministry in Lancaster was handed over to us by our friends Jason and Nancy Smith last summer. We appreciate their good advice moving forward. The Connection is supposed to be in the process of getting its non-profit status, so I need to follow through with that.

The Connection Bible Study that we started last year continues on Wednesday nights at Restoration Church in Lancaster, which graciously lets us use their facilities. We meet for supper at 6:15, and then do Bible study from 7 to 8. We've had up to 24 people come as we continue studying through the book of Genesis, with some of the younger kids being incorporated into the Restoration elementary class or nursery. Last fall, most who came spoke Spanish, and we did everything bilingually. Later in the fall, a group of mostly black kids started coming, and the original hispanic people quit coming. We do have some hispanic folks coming again now, but usually everyone in this group speaks English as their primary language. We now do the Bible Study bilingually as needed.

It is an interesting group of people, mostly kids, that really need the Lord. All the girls that usually come have been suspended or expelled, usually multiple times, for fighting at school. They say that they won't be respected if they don't fight. Some say they are lesbian. One girl tried to commit suicide a few months back. One suffered what seemed to be a demonic attack at the Bible study which left her shaking and stiff. EMTs were called when she got home, but nothing was found to be wrong. Once, the teen girls tricked three boys into coming by telling them they wanted to hang out. When the boys found out we were going to church, they were mad! They still came a couple of times, but the girls misbehave and don't pay attention when those boys come. One of the girls invites her lesbian "girlfriends" to come. Many of the kids love to take selfies at the Bible study, and cell phones are a big obstacle to their paying attention. None of the kids who usually come has a father that they live with. One girl in second grade seems to live with her ex-stepfather's new family; no one she lives with is actually related to her. Often, I will pick up kids at one trailer park one week, and the next time they will be in a different trailer park.



We have expanded the Connection's ministry from the original Countryside trailer park and now have kids coming from other parks at Sara Drive, Paladin, the one behind the Wash Tub, and the Pardue housing project. We've ministered in the Plantation and Twin Lakes parks as well, but don't have anyone attending from those yet. Ministering to these kids can be discouraging, as well as touching, like when a couple of the kids said that they wished they lived with us. Besides the weekly events, we had one outing in which we went to CiCi's Pizza and then skating. That seemed to go well. A few of the younger kids have started coming to church with us.

I offer free piano, guitar, mandolin or music theory lessons at the Connection office at Countryside each Monday at 5:30 PM. We've had homeschoolers come, as well as neighborhood kids or adults who want to learn. Many kids just come to use the basketball and soccer courts and picnic tables. Some leave food trash, tobacco and drug paraphernalia, syringes or condoms behind, tear up the playground equipment, or start fires under the shelter. Sometimes people want to be prayed with. One guy was recently released from prison and has a drug addiction, but needs a job. One lady needs a job, but can't find childcare. One kid I met at the playground is one of nine foster kids at his house. He cuts his arms and wrists. He has a 16-year old biological sister who, though ostensibly in foster care, lives with her adult boyfriend. Another kid at Countryside said that she is a lesbian who worships Satan. I was able to talk to her about Jesus and she admitted that Jesus has answered her prayers in the past.

On Wednesdays, and for outings, I've had up to 11 people in my truck, and Karen brings her car and takes additional kids home. The Connection probably needs a van or reliable small bus. Please let me know if you have any ideas.

Our daughter Johanna Williams and son-in-law Allen have moved back from Ohio to Pinehurst NC, where he is a youth pastor. They plan to bring a group of students down for a week in June to help at the Connection. If any Lancaster County folks would like to provide meals for them or a place to stay, that would be very appreciated.

Please do not post this newsletter online.



I (Wade) continue to serve Wycliffe's sister organization, SIL Mexico, as Travel Manager and by leading the Mexico Security team. Since Mexico is the largest entity in SIL's Americas Area, I was recently asked to also be the Security liaison for North and South America. So, I lead a security meeting for Mexico, another for the Americas Branch, and attend a third Wycliffe international security meeting each month. In May, I will be participating in a week-long in-person international security conference which will be held at JAARS.

I also tutor other Wycliffe missionaries in Spanish via Zoom. Two of my students (one of whom is from North Carolina) live in New Zealand, and my newest two students live in Oregon. Because of the time difference, I have to teach them in the evening (here). The New Zealand couple is heading for Iquitos, Peru, and the other couple has already been serving in South America but want to learn more Spanish to increase their effectiveness.

In Mexico I had taken a Teaching Trauma Healing course that Wycliffe members developed. Out of all possible books, two of my Spanish students, without consulting me or each other, chose to use the Spanish translation of this textbook as their practice book for learning Spanish! After being constantly exposed to and teaching from this scripture-based book for the last 6 months, I'm wondering what God is up too. I think the Trauma Healing course could be a great help to the Connection kids. Please pray that I would be able to implement this if it is God's will.

In December, Karen and Hope went with the JAARS youth to pack Operation Christmas Child boxes at the main Samaritan's Purse warehouse in Charlotte. In one day, 10,000 boxes were packed there. Samuel and Hope participate in the middle and high school youth groups each week. Hope sometimes mans the sound booth.

On January 10, I received a request from John Wagner, a Wycliffe friend in Mexico, for 100 MegaVoice audio Bibles to be dubbed into Zapotec of San Vicente Coatlan, the language he had translated the Bible into. These MegaVoices cost \$25 each. I had been out to San Vicente with the Wagners about 18 years ago, and at that time, people there seemed resistant to the gospel. Now, thanks to the Wagners' faithful service over the years, people are hungry for the scriptures! I had taken 40 MegaVoices down to Mitla last year for Audio Scripture Ministries, and others were already down there available for dubbing, so thanks to our supporters, we were able to purchase the 100 Megavoices, and they were distributed to people in San Vicente the first week of March. I plan to make a trip down to Mitla this spring to work on our house, which is being used by another missionary, and to take down more Megavoices to Jim Loker, the Audio Scripture missionary there, to replace the ones we used for San Vicente. If anyone would like to go with me as a courier to take some down, let me know.



96-year old Zapotec MegaVoice recipient in San Vicente Coatlan

Contact Info:

The Connection -
Wade & Karen ten Bensel
2323 Bless Lane
Lancaster, SC 29720

Wade_ten_Bensel@SIL.org
Karen_ten_Bensel@Wycliffe.org
Phone: 803-283-4631

Contributions:

Cornerstone Church
245 Southland Road
Americus, GA 31719

Please note on check:

Bible Translation

On January 24, I got a message from my friend Diego in Mitla, Mexico, to tell me about a boy with cerebral palsy in the nearby village of Xaaga that needed a wheelchair. It needed to be an all-terrain type so his family could get him to physical therapy. I posted the need to the Connection's Facebook page, and within a few days people donated enough to buy the wheelchair. Since we have a Mexican debit card, I was able to buy it online and have it shipped to the gate guard at the Bible Translation center in Mitla, who is a pastor in Xaaga. He received it and went with Diego on February 3 to deliver it to the family. The Lord also used this process for me to get to know the mother of one of the Connection kids, who has an older child with cerebral palsy. She offered to donate a deluxe activity wheelchair, but the wheels ended up being small for rough-terrain use.

Together, we can reach the world from wherever we are! Our family receives no salary, so we have to raise our own support.

Thanks for your partnership in serving Him.

W. D. ten Bensel