

Thank You, “Senders!”

Thank you for your prayers!

Thank you for donating eyeglasses!

Thank you for making witness bracelets, hand puppets, eyeglass cases and quilts!

Thank you for “sending” us to Puerto Rico!

The 29 members of our South Wisconsin District LWML MOST Ministries team traveled to Mayaguez, Puerto Rico to conduct an eyeglass clinic from November 2 – 10. We distributed 1,891 pair of corrective vision eyeglasses to over 1,500 people. Hundreds of adults and children were also supplied with sunglasses. More importantly, the Lord worked through team members as we witnessed Jesus’ love and grace. We appreciate your prayers and your support of the trip!

Witness bracelets, with colored beads representing Jesus’ life, were handed out and explained to the recipients. Finger puppets with the same colors were given to children. Information on the local LCMS church was distributed, with a personal invitation from their members to attend worship services and activities. Seeds of faith were planted! We pray that the Holy Spirit will nurture their faith.

We all have stories to tell you! Touching stories of how God made sure that we had just the right prescription for nearly every person who needed corrective glasses. Funny stories of our feeble attempts at speaking Spanish! Stories of appreciation from the people of Puerto Rico who received glasses. Stories of the smiles of delight when they could see! Through God’s guidance and your support, we pray that the Holy Spirit will be welcomed into their hearts as they interact with the members of the local Lutheran Church in Mayaguez.

We are currently compiling a speakers’ list which will be available in paper form from Diane Kamrath, our Mission Education Committee Chairman. Zone presidents will receive a copy at the March 1 SWD LWML Board of Directors meeting. If you would like to schedule a speaker for your group before then, please let us know and we’ll put you in contact with someone. (Because of privacy and security issues, we do not publish addresses, phone numbers or email addresses on the website. To reach us via email, please go to our personnel page and click on “president.”) We’d love to share our awesome experiences with your church group, your LWML society or at a zone rally!

NEWS FLASH!!!! We have just been notified that MOST Ministries, at the request of missionary Mike Tanney from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Mayaguez, has been asked to send another eyeglass team in early May, 2008! If you were on our waiting list for the November trip, or if you feel the Lord calling you to be a “Goer,” let us know and we’ll put you in contact with MOST. The trip is an open trip, available to everyone.

Again, thank you for your support, your prayers and your interest in this mission trip. It is our hope that through this trip, all of us will become more aware of the need to spread God’s word to people near and far. That support can take many forms, including praying for, and funding of, our LWML mission grants through our mite box donations. God’s blessings to each of you!

While each member of our team has many stories to tell, each of us also has pictures to share. Here are just a few!

Our Team

Team members flew out of Milwaukee's General Mitchell Field on Friday, November 2. Team leaders from Iowa and Michigan, plus 2 more team members, met up with us at Newark where we connected to our flight to Aguadilla, Puerto Rico. From there we rode in vans to our sleeping accommodations in Mayaguez, arriving at 3 a.m.!



Our Team Leaders

Because we had such a large group, MOST Ministries split us into 2 teams. Our leaders were Eileen and Steve, shown here with missionary Mike Tanney from our host church, Prince of Peace in Mayaguez.

Sharing God's Love as Well as Glasses

Each person was tested for far and near vision. If a person needed correction for each, they were given 2 pair of glasses. Before glasses were given out, however, each person spent time at the witness station, where members of our host church gave each adult a witness bracelet and explained its meaning; children were given finger puppets with the same message.



Spanish Bible Brings Smiles

A Puerto Rican woman cherishes a Spanish Bible given to her at the eyeglass clinic. Unable to read with her limited vision, the Lord provided just the right prescription through the donated eyeglasses. She was eager to read Psalm 23, and because of the language barrier, did not understand when team members attempted to find it for her. She clutched the Bible tightly because she thought it was being taken from her!

Delighted with His New Glasses!

This boy lost his right eye in an accident, and has limited vision in his left eye. You can see his delight at being able to read with his new glasses! Later that day, his whole family came to the clinic. They received eyeglasses, as well as witness materials during a personal visit with church members.



A Cutie with Sunglasses

Sunglasses were given to children and adults, to help prevent damage to their eyesight. A condition called 'pterygium' is caused from the intense sunlight, wind and dust in Puerto Rico. Left untreated, it can cause blindness.

The Whole Team at Trip's End

Pictured is the whole mission team on the steps of the place where we were housed. It was hot and humid each day (one day the temperature was 96 degrees!), with occasional rain. It was quite a shock to come back to Wisconsin where the weather was in the 40s!

