

March 2, 2011

Dear Church Family,

The Lenten season is a time to deepen our spiritual understanding by reflecting on Jesus Christ's suffering and ultimate sacrifice for us. It is also a time to renew our commitment to serve as disciples for Jesus by sharing His love and giving to others.

*"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."--Matthew 25:40*

During this Lenten season, our church will share His love with brothers and sisters in Christ who live beyond our community. We will dedicate the special Lenten offering to Proyecto Abrigo | Project Shelter in Juárez, Mexico.

In the past, members of our church have traveled to Juárez to build homes in the impoverished community of Tierra Nueva. Just last December, two volunteers from Commerce helped build a new 12' x 24' cinderblock home for the Hernandez family of six. They moved from a rudimentary structure to a home with a concrete floor, steel door, two windows, and plywood roof overlaid with sealed tar paper. This, truly, is God's work!

Due to the outbreak of violence close to the mission compound, no mission teams will travel to Juárez this Spring to build new cinderblock homes. Reverend José Luis Portillo, founder of Proyecto Abrigo, has contacted prospective mission teams to cancel all trips in the near future. The potential of danger is too great.

However, we can travel to Juárez ***in spirit*** by making a generous Lenten offering that will go directly to Proyecto Abrigo and its mission efforts so that another family can experience the blessing of a new home. Our Lenten offering will also help support Proyecto Abrigo's medical clinic and food bank ministries.

Together, we can make a difference for the poorest of the poor of Juárez in Tierra Nueva. We hope that you will continue to support Proyecto Abrigo with your Lenten gift on or before Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011. In addition, look for opportunities to learn about this mission work in Mexico and for non-monetary ways to serve throughout the Lenten season.

Working with you to do God's work,

*Your Serve Team*