

Feed the Need- Juarez

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. Matthew 25:35

This week we want to bring to your attention for your prayers the "Comedores" (Soup Kitchen) ministry in Juarez led by Dr. Hugo Mendez and our mission pastor Juan Del Rio. It is well known to us that poverty and hunger insecurity is one of Juarez's greatest problems. Standing from the bridge connecting El Paso and Juarez, you can see that life is different. Anapra is one of the areas in Juarez where many homes have no running water, and many other basic needs. Poverty is in the fainting child who dreams of a mouthful of beans or in the search for warmth and shelter during cold winter nights. As expected, this reality was aggravated due to the hit of COVID-19. Just remember this year's motto..... Help Fill in the **G.A.P.**

The **G** stands for.... **Give**, because we can't have an offering without contributions. You can specially mark your check or offering envelope, or simply use the give tab on the church app or website and choose "Feed the Need"

The **A** stands for..... **Act**, "Feed the Need" is about more than giving money it is about giving of yourself. This month you will hear all about these amazing ministries and how you can personally get involved. And

And the **P** stands for..... **Pray**, we all know the awesome power of prayer. And without it the other two would be ineffective and invalid.

This reality has led Dr. Mendez and pastor Juan to start a soup kitchen at his church Iglesia Bautista La Paz where they serve a hot meal every Wednesday to dozens of food insecure children in the community. Neighborhood children who haven't eaten that day, or who haven't had enough to eat, can walk in and find a free meal. Dr. Mendez says. "We have to help the homeless men and women, but we have to start with the children." Most of the children they feed at their church have been affected directly or indirectly by poverty, lack of opportunities and the wave of violence that hit Juárez a few years ago. Many of the kids have been left to be raised by relatives because one or both parents have been murdered, are in jail, or have simply abandoned them. Help us to ensure that these kids in the Anapra area can enjoy a nice plate of food and hear about Jesus. With \$1 you can help feed a child a hot meal every Wednesday of each week.

This year we also want to raise awareness and support to assist the refugee situation here in our own backyards. This problem we know is rooted largely in a significant human crisis. Violence in Central America is perpetuated by gangs, drug traffickers, etc. who are outside of government control. They extort, threaten, kidnap, and kill individuals and families, with the hope of obtaining their servitude, driving people from their homes. Part of our calling to share the love and life of Jesus includes assisting the migrant, refugee, and those on the margins. One of the things we do is to provide lunches and food when requested by the El Paso Immigration Center lead by our own El Paso Baptist Association. During this month then, let us together, seek to understand the global realities that our migrant brothers and sisters face. Together, we fill the GAP and respond to the call of Jesus our Lord and Savior to welcome and help feed the stranger.

Here are some ways Dr. Mendez and pastor Juan suggested we can pray for them:

Pray for the provision of the health, strength and financial support for Dr. Mendez. Protection from the corona virus that is spreading again in Juarez.

Pray for Pastor Juan del Rio to be strengthened, encouraged, and empowered.

Pray for food support for the feeding ministries Comedores (Soup Kitchen) at Iglesia Bautista La Paz in Anapra and in their mission church Esperanza de Paz in km. 30.

Pray for peace and grace in Juarez and a continuous outpouring of the Spirit of God.

Pray for each of the local pastors in Juarez to be strengthened, encouraged, and empowered.

Pray for the Gospel to reach all 1.3 million inhabitants living in in Juarez.

Pray for young children who are not able to continue their studies because of their condition of poverty.

Pray for the love and forgiveness of Jesus to overpower the strongholds of crime, violence, and corruption.

Pray for government leaders to repent from corruption and seek God's righteousness.

Pray for Iglesia Bautista La Paz to be able start a kindergarten/elementary school that would bless the kids of that community with Christian education.

How we can pray for the refugee and migrant situation:

Pray that God will guide us to walk alongside vulnerable refugee families as they build a new life here in our city.

Pray for adult refugees and children who have been forced to leave behind all they have ever known.

Pray that God will heal refugees from the trauma of fear, deprivation, loss and abuse.

Pray that God will comfort refugees and give them peace and wholeness.

Pray that God will prepare us to be welcoming friends who help relieve their uncertainty and their hunger.

Pray that God will help us recognize His presence in the refugees and migrants seeking safety.