



Bridging the Gap Ministries Inc.
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Yá'át'ééh,

As I sit here today, I have had 4 funerals in as many weeks. As I was working on some training material a couple weeks ago, a friend of mine made the statement, "You become a Pastor at births, weddings, funerals, and hospitals, not in the office or behind the pulpit." While I recognize this truth and appreciate the training I have received, I must admit that this is becoming a bit much.



I am constantly reminded of the quality of life here and the challenges that life here brings to our people. I am also reminded of how a simple gesture of love and concern means so much when people face hardship. Simple things like helping to light a stove or water heater, helping a grandma get propane or splitting some firewood or hauling some pellets to their home, (that big truck has 200,000 miles and is still getting work done) taking a few minutes to listen to the stories of how they grew up and the life challenges they face and the laughter they share when the crazy stuff happens makes a difference. We

were told it would take about 10 years to truly make "entry" with this community. This week I sat with a gentleman from our church I have sat with many, many times, and he shared stories with me that I had not heard. I can not thank you all enough for the support you all provide that allows me the privilege to spend time with our church family in that way. Yet, there is so much more I want to do, and so much more I see needs to be done.

For the past month, several of us have had the privilege of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training. The purpose of this training is to equip a community of volunteers to provide support until first responders arrive. The course covered incident command, some basic first aid, some basic fire skills, some search and rescue, and other really cool things. It is our hope that this class will open the door for us to better serve and support our community in times of hardship.

Michele has finished all of the end of year financial reports and letters. As we look back over the past year, we are so grateful for all that you have done. Unfortunately, this is the part of the job that just does not come to an end. Because of the national and local economy this year, we are going to have to take a more strategic and deliberate approach to this task. Mike Brennan, our previous mentor in this ministry, challenged us to "ask God and tell His people." This year, I am looking to spend more time telling his people about who we are, what

we do, and what God is doing in and through us. So be on the look out for some more info to come.

If you have come here on a mission trip in the past five years, you may have met a gentleman in our church named Herbert. He has been a very special part of our church and served in many ways. Unfortunately for us, God has called him home. There have been several challenges around his passing. It was my honor and the honor of "Creator's Fellowship" to minister to him and his family during this time. If anyone would like to help reimburse Creator's Fellowship for funeral expenses, a donation to the general fund would be greatly appreciated.



Over the past 6 weeks, the amount of both personal change and ministry change we have seen is huge. My mom is now living with us; we need to find another person to take up the vacancy left by Herbert's passing. Pray for Michele and me as we make these adjustments both in our lives and in our ministry.

Prayer requests

- A newer, more reliable van that can be taken on longer trips and works off paved roads
- Some major improvements and repairs at Journey and East
- New prayer and financial partners for Bridging the Gap, the churches, and our personal support
- The next couple to begin the FNMBC
- Continued spiritual growth of those in church and more local leaders to step up
- Spiritual warfare we are all facing
- Greater passion for reaching those who do not know Jesus

Praises

- There appears to be a renewed passion for Christ.
- We continue to see God's provision, protection, and compassion for us and our people.
- How God has carried us the past several weeks

Amazon wish list for Creator's Fellowship & Bridging the Gap Ministries can be found at https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2PK9LTJ2ZZJK2?ref_=wl_share

Tax-deductible gifts can be sent to:
BTG Ministries (see above address) for ministry or living expenses
OR

Journey Church expenses
Journey Church
501 South 3rd St.
Gallup, NM 87301

Creator's Fellowship expenses
Creator's Fellowship
PO Box 1498
Church Rock, NM 87311