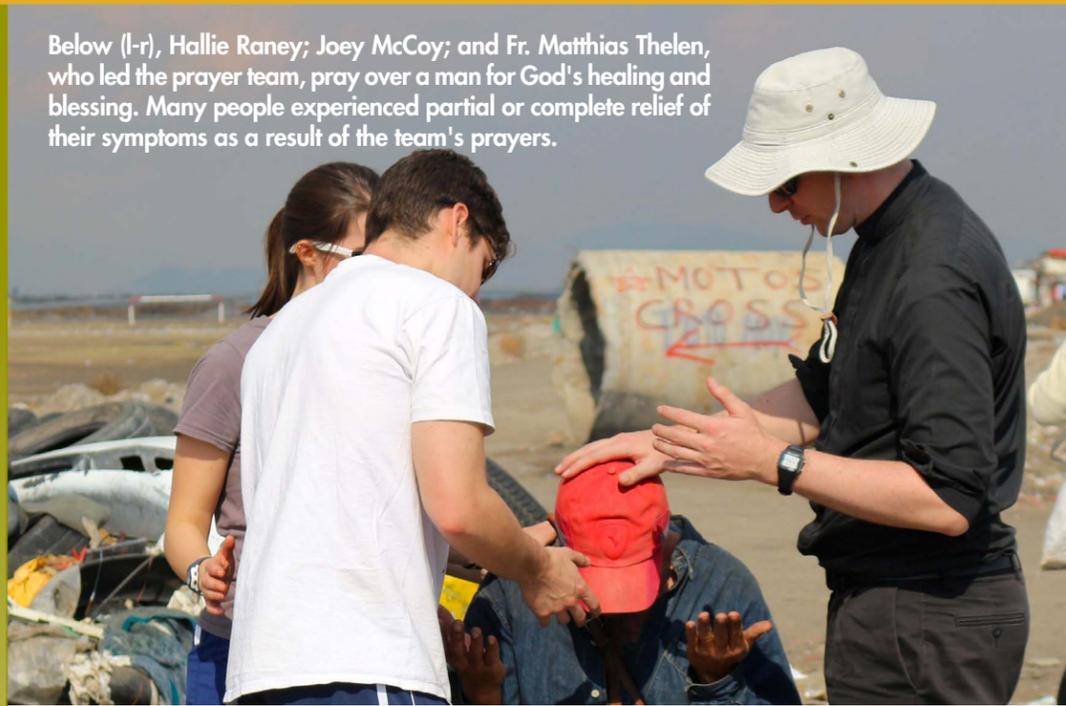


MEXICO MISSION TEAM

Debbie Herbeck was joined on this mission by an exuberant team of volunteers, many of whom are part of the i.d.9:16 family:

Joey McCoy · Leader
Tim Green · Leader
Fr. Matthias Thelen
Dr. Tom Graves, MD
Lavinia Spirito
Kirsten Aliber, RN
Alyssa Bengal
Mary Bischoff
Charlotte Brinkman, RN
Amalie & Tim Collard
Raquel De La Cruz
Tom Dougan
Jill Grabowksi, RN
Rachel Herbeck
Cathy Ligeski, RN
Emily Messiter
Hallie Raney, RN
Alicia Stier

Below (l-r), Hallie Raney; Joey McCoy; and Fr. Matthias Thelen, who led the prayer team, pray over a man for God's healing and blessing. Many people experienced partial or complete relief of their symptoms as a result of the team's prayers.



Spreading the GOSPEL in Mexico

WORKS OF MERCY | By Tim Green

The recent Mexico mission gave our team of primarily young adults many opportunities to serve and to see God at work in people's lives.

Along with the medical clinic and prayers for healing, we celebrated Mass, played with the local children, distributed food packages as well as toiletries, and visited an old men's home and orphans at the Casa Hogar la Divina Providencia. Fr. Matthias Thelen also heard confessions.

Jesus, an elderly man who had been seen by Dr. Tom Graves and whose vision was impaired by cataracts, was able to see much better after prayer. He joyfully remarked that he could see the clouds again, along with other objects and buildings at a great distance.

We brought toilet paper, bananas, and orange punch for the men at the old men's home (Asilo). The team presented the "Everything Skit," which was very well received. One man, in tears, said he had never before understood how much Jesus loved him. The team interacted very well with the men, talking, praying, singing, and dancing with them. We prayed with several men for healing.

At the orphanage, Mother Ines was very grateful for our financial support, and said she likely would use it for one of the children with hydrocephaly, who needs surgery. The team played with the children on the main floor, and also spent a substantial amount of time with the them in the upper room. **We all heeded Mother Ines' exhortation "to go up there and be filled with the love of Jesus, and then go take it out to the whole world!"** ✝

MEDICAL MIRACLES | By Dr. Tom Graves

I recently traveled as a medical doctor to Mexico City with a Renewal Ministries' team of young adults on fire with love for Jesus and a desire to serve. Each morning, we had Mass and prayed that God would use us in His astonishing way to help people and to show His love.



Dr. Tom Graves

We treated some straightforward medical problems. We had a fairly well-stocked pharmacy, bandages, and some equipment. Many people had parasites (worms are common in areas with no clean water). Others had hypertension, diabetes, and injuries—like an insulin syringe pierced through a hand or foot from walking over garbage or looking through it for items of value. These wounds frequently were infected; antibiotics in these situations can save a life.

However, we did not have the ability to treat problems like severe arthritis, large abdominal tumors, or large abdominal hernias. After examining such patients in the clinic (a simple portable tent), I directed them to our prayer team for prayers of healing.

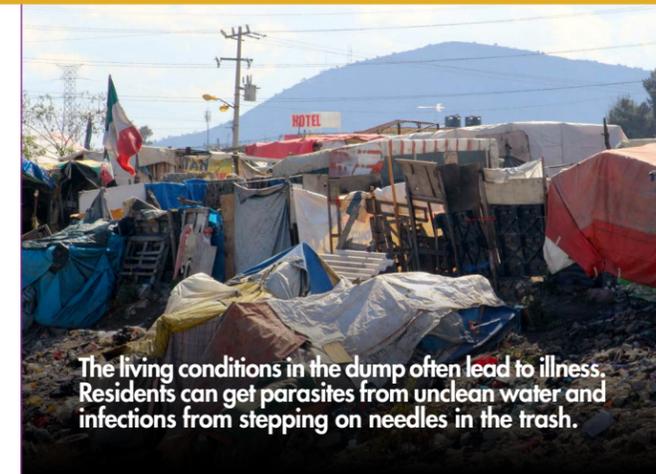
I believe in Jesus. I trust Him. And I know He especially loves the poor. But I did not expect the outpouring of God's grace that we witnessed in the dump. I have seen people healed through prayer before, but I have never been exposed to a situation in which healing was the rule, rather than the exception.

An eighty-three-year-old woman with severe arthritis, who was bent at the waist from osteoporosis, broke my heart. Her hips and knees would have been replaced long ago in the US. Our medical supplies were limited, but I gave her extra ibuprofen, knowing how awful her pain was. We then sent her to the prayer team. An hour later, she returned, standing upright, with a huge smile—and without her cane! My interpreter translated her cries: "All my pain is gone!"

One man had fractured his neck after falling off a tall pile of trash three years earlier. His neck was bent forward at an unusual angle and painful to touch. We referred him to the prayer team, and afterward he said his pain was gone. I saw him at Mass the next morning and asked him how his neck felt. He smiled, showed me that it was no longer crooked, and said, "Nada." No pain at all.

After re-examining two patients who had received prayers for a tumor and a hernia, I found no trace of my prior diagnosis. Another man received prayer for severe mouth lesions and experienced healing too. God moved powerfully in the dump through our prayer team, led by Fr. Matthias Thelen. It was hard to believe these miracles—and yet we could not deny what our own eyes had seen.

The experience at the dump changed my life. It was a thrill to be surrounded by many young people who love Jesus and who joyously share His love with others. i.d.9:16 is unique and important, especially now. While I often hear people lament the future of our children's faith, this growing young adult ministry is helping young people know and love Jesus, and share that love passionately. ✝



The living conditions in the dump often lead to illness. Residents can get parasites from unclean water and infections from stepping on needles in the trash.

SEEING CLEARLY | By Joey McCoy

On the recent Mexico mission trip, Jesus led me to freedom by helping me surrender and let Him be uncontrollable, unpredictable, and beyond what makes sense. The Spirit also blessed me with an inspiring vision of His happiness: God, who sees all the suffering that has ever existed and, moreover, experiences it with us, still is perfectly happy. That is shocking—and really encouraging. The Lord blessed me with a participation in this happiness. How grateful I am to the Divine Physician, Who knows our ailments and remedies so well.

I also got a taste of the Church as she is in heaven. I saw how, while radiant in our distinct personalities, which give glory and praise to God in many ways, we nevertheless are sealed together in a radical oneness. We are one and many at the same time. This is the Trinity, in Whose image we are fashioned.

On the way home, I was deluged with love, gratitude, and affection for those with whom I had spent the week.

The Spirit had made us one as Jesus and the Father are one. (Jn 17:21) Do we know how beautiful the Body of Christ—the Church—will look in Heaven? To see each other as we have always been meant to be seen and to love each other as we have always longed to love—what a place it will be! ✝

Joey McCoy is a medical student at the University of Michigan and will be married soon. He has participated in Renewal Ministries' mission trips to Mexico City regularly over the past nine years. He helps lead i.d.9:16 missions and blogs at www.id916.com.



While the medical clinic was operating, the team played soccer, jumped rope, colored, did face painting, and enjoyed piñatas with the children.