

The Visionary

www.emeraldhills.info

www.teamexpansion.org

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HOW DO THEY KNOW?

by Doug Lucas, President, Team Expansion

Every year about this same time, a huge flock of birds descend on Emerald Hills. Now, I don't just mean 20 birds. There are literally thousands of them. There are so many that, as they fly in circles around Emerald Hills, you can hear the sounds of their wings flapping quickly in the breeze. They silently land on the large grassy area outside my window and then, as if cued by some awesome unseen hand, they all leap up into the air in unison, swirling like a tornado in a single direction. They never collide, never stop to ask, "Which way?" and never hesitate.

So I'm left with a question: How do they know? Who determines their direction? That was the subject of a huge study reported on in the March-April 2009 issue of Audubon magazine. The funny thing was, after spending lots of money and time fastening little GPS backpacks on birds, studying their individual movements in a flock, scientists still aren't 100 percent sure how they do it. Explanations for those lightning-quick synchronized movements of bird flocks are still elusively out of reach, still a mystery of God's amazing creation.

One thing is for certain, though. Regardless of what mystical force guides them, they are aided by getting to know the flock. As they spend time with the flock, they improve on their ability to turn sharp corners on a dime, start and stop with the rest of the flock, and dive through the air in corkscrew fashion. In short, though we aren't sure about their inner compass, we know they become better team players by spending time with one another.

Mission teams are like that. No one has come up with a foolproof way to predict, with absolute certainty, which missionaries will last and which ones won't. What we do know with certainty is that the more time they spend together in team building before, during and after, the better they get along.

And that explains much of the mission of Emerald Hills. It provides Team Expansion with a sense of place. It's a nest, a roost, and a center of flight operations. So when you pray, recommend, and/or support Emerald Hills, you aren't just helping one missionary in one field just that one time. You're helping all the current and future force of missionaries from now until eternity comes. You're encouraging synchronicity, unity, oneness, and shared vision, all with a gift to the same cause. So when you pray, give, or volunteer at Emerald Hills, your gift keeps flying for a long time to come.

FIELD HIGHLIGHT: MEXICO

by Rodney Peterson

Six of us went deep into the heart of the southern portion of the Sierra Madre mountain range in west-central Mexico to do a survey trip of the Huichol (Wee-chol) people. The terrain is rugged, the landscape is breathtakingly beautiful, the potential for the Gospel is real and the road to get there now rates in the top two or three worst roads I've ever been over in my life. The final 3+ hours into their area is over incredibly rough dirt roads

and I felt like I had arrived "at the ends of the earth."

The Huichol people as a whole are only 2.9% evangelical Christians, and those are the ones primarily in their southern regions. In the northern region where we went, it is next to nothing. Right now the project is in the very early stages, with the next visits taking place in February and April.

The most important element needed right now is prayer. Please join us in prayer for God to raise up the right

people who will be willing to go and live in a rustic setting where they will probably need to learn both Spanish and the Huichol dialect. The prayer and the dream is that this starting place would be a launching pad for an indigenous church planting movement throughout the whole northern region of the Huichol people. All of this for God's glory and for the needed expansion of His kingdom as we take back territory that rightly belongs to God!

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Sale of the Hopewell House **soon**
- More Enlarge the Harvest captains and partners needed
- More people to Multiply the Momentum - Ask God to help us complete MTM by December 25, 2010!
- Pray that repairs on the barn floor can be taken care of quickly, and as inexpensively as possible.
- Comfort and peace for all missionaries and their families during this holiday season as many are far away from their loved ones.



We are praying for 270 financial partners
by Christmas 2010.

Right now, we have 48.

Will you be one of the 222?

Visit www.mtm2010.com for more information.

ENGAGE the UNREACHED

Each week we post top opportunities on our website: www.teamexpansion.org. You can also subscribe to receive them via email. Simply write "Subscribe" in the subject line and send an email to engagetheunreached@teamexpansion.org.

ARE YOU ON THE PRAYER FORCE?

Join today!

Visit www.teamexpansion.org/prayerforce!

FINANCIAL UPDATE: OCTOBER 2010

	<u>Emerald Hills Fund</u>
Balance 10-1-10	-\$58,128.90
October Receipts	\$12,745.79
October Expenses	\$14,418.70*
Checking account Balance 10-31-10	-\$59,801.81

*Balance owed to First Cap Bank: \$1.566 million

Receipts

Andover Christian Church	\$800.00
Center Pointe Christian Church	\$350.00
Coastal Community Christian Church	\$250.00
College Heights Christian Church	\$400.00
Fayetteville Church of Christ	\$250.00
Fern Creek Christian Church	\$430.00
First Christian Church, Sullivan	\$400.00
Heritage Christian Church	\$100.00
Individuals	\$7,814.00
Interest Income	\$104.64
Network for Good	\$23.82
Northwest Christian Church	\$400.00
Okolona Christian Church	\$400.00
Tower Hill Christian Church	\$40.00
Vansant Church of Christ	\$250.00
Westerville Christian Church	\$733.33
Total	\$12,745.79

Expenses

Banking Fees	\$10.27
Barn	\$226.13
For more Support	\$346.00
Fuel	\$59.70
Louisville Gas & Electric	\$113.79
Misc	\$336.33
Mortgage Payment	\$12,807.54
Trees	\$518.94
Total	\$14,418.70