

Dear friend,

Well, here we are. In the midst of Covid... STILL. Not where any of us were hoping to be in July of 2020. Will life ever feel "normal" again? When Jesus said, "You will have trouble in this world" he wasn't kidding! But thankfully he also said, "I will never leave you or forsake you."

In the midst of these crazy times, heroes have become evident to us all. Frontline workers like my son Brennan who works at Ralph's in South Pasadena and my niece who is a Physician's Assistant in New York. We probably all have heroes in our families. I also have a few heroes amongst my friends who have dedicated themselves to helping people who live in poverty and need.

One of those is Wayne Kiger-Rice, who you will read more about in this letter. Another one is Hugh Margesson. Some of you may know Hugh. He has been a partner with COC since early on. Hugh has worked with Native American's, the indigenous in Mexico, and many more. He has a gift of procuring needed supplies. My first memory of him was digging through and picking up books and craft supplies by the score for our Mexico trips. Then came shoes. So many CROCS! Now, Hugh is hard at work clearing out unwanted supplies from a hospital in our area and donating them to Mexico and beyond. We've been able to supply thousands of masks to Zona Norte, and now we are looking at having some shipped to the Philippines in partnership with missionary friends.

These days uncertainty reigns. Mixed messages rule. Emotions ride high. Troubles seem aplenty. But hope will triumph. With every crisis, there is opportunity and I hope we can all seize those to make a difference together.

Blessings and stay safe,



Carol DeGraff
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P.S. - We are rescheduling our Guanajuato Mexico playground build to after Christmas 2021. This may give some of you more time to plan! It's a great family trip and our prayer is a vaccine will be in place by then. Let me know if you are interested.

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To arrange a pick up call 1-800-499-5121.
Since COVID-19 we are unable to take furniture.

HERO SPOTLIGHT



Our good friends and partners Wayne & Carol Kiger-Rice are feeding the hungry in Tijuana in Jesus name. They've been able to bring food for our ministry in Zona Norte and more. When they moved to San Diego 13 years ago, they realized they lived 20 minutes from a third world country and knew Jesus was calling them to do something. They drive a full truckload of donated food 2-3 times a week to children and elderly homes, infirmaries, rehab centers and many colonia's both rural and urban, where people provide the best they can for their families on limited budgets. We asked Wayne to share how Covid-19 has affected the ministry in TJ.

"These days, in the midst of a global pandemic, Tijuana is affected no less if not more. No stimulus checks. No government aid. And yet many people have been forced out of work due to the health scare closing many businesses. We learned years ago that many of our Mexican partners do not have savings or long term financial plans. They live day to day, week to week on minimal pay. They do not store a lot of food as they buy what they need to feed their families on a day to day basis. Often I am asked if the food donated is near the expiration date that it

should be cooked and consumed. It is always easy to reply – no worries. These folks will put this on their family dinner table tonight. Because it is today's provision. My friends, partners and colleagues have all witnessed the same during these days of Covid19. There is so much desperation for provision. Some homes and colonias post signs stating "We have run out of food". The areas in Mexico we serve are not the poorest of the poor, as there are many greater needs around the globe. We are not aware of anyone starving as many we know of in parts of Africa and India. But the poor here are in great need of balanced nutrition and daily bread and we are in close proximity to be able to provide through various in-kind donations from local markets around San Diego. Our greatest desire is to work with the locals and help them help their communities, and keeping ourselves in the background of as often as possible.

Throughout this pandemic food donations have ebbed and flowed. We are grateful for every call we receive and any amount of considered provision verses it going to waste. Prayers are greatly appreciated in seeing that those connections continue to be made. Many businesses are stressed with the hardships of all of the changes to normalcy that this pandemic has brought on. But we surely believe there is a great abundant blessing to all who make the effort to not overlook the needy. Thank you for praying that these needs stay on the front lines!"

- Wayne

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USED CARS

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