



CON MIS MANOS

Update

CON MIS MANOS DEAF MINISTRY 2024 BACK TO SCHOOL FALL UPDATE

HELLO FALL, 2024! We hope this newsletter finds you well. We are excited to once again share with you all some ministry updates from CMM. Thank you for your interest in seeing what God is doing among the Deaf community here at Con Mis Manos.

If you follow the ministry regularly, you may have noticed a decline in email communication over the past year. While regular ministry activities have continued, personal health and family hardships have caused me (Michelle) to not stay as up to date with communication as normally planned. For a short update about our family please see the end of this newsletter.



REMEMBERING OUR PURPOSE: Since the first day of its founding as a ministry in 2003, Con Mis Manos has belonged to God and exists as a testimony to HIS power through our weakness. As a ministry, we pray for the privilege to continue to serve as HIS hands and feet at CMM. Over the last 20+ years, the MINISTRY PURPOSE remains the same: To share the truth of God's love and salvation through practical outreach activities to Deaf individuals and families in Northeastern Mexico.

In this newsletter we are excited to share updates with you of the current activities in the 4 branches of CON MIS MANOS: Evangelism, Education, Job Training, and Family Outreach. We will also share project updates; ministry needs and prayer requests.

Evangelism: Sunday afternoon church services are held in LSM (Mexican sign) and open to the public. They are currently held in the multi-purpose room in the educational building at CMM. Services are led by 2 Deaf Christians who are former CMM students. After the Biblical teaching, religious signs highlighted in that day's teaching are taught to hearing family members through interactive games. Prayer time for families is led in Spanish with LSM interpretation by one of the CMM staff members. Average attendance has ranged from 25-40 to per church service since launching as a church in March 2023. In addition to Sunday service, Biblical discipleship and prayer are a part of every activity at CMM.



Education: September 3rd, 2024, classes began for the new school year with 35 students. Current students are aged 3 to 47. As always, CMM continues to accept new students throughout the year.

All classes are taught in Mexican Sign Language. For the 2024-2025 school year classes are Bible, Geography, Health, Math, Science and Spanish. Free Sign Language classes open to the public are offered onsite at CMM every Friday afternoon and online via Zoom on Saturday mornings.



CMM is also the only site in Matamoros specifically working with Deaf students for the government adult education program ITEA. This partnership allows ITEA to reach the Deaf community and allows CMM students and other Deaf adults the opportunity to receive their

Job Training: Fall 2024 Vo-tech classes are held 2 days a week. Current students ages 10 and up participate in a minimum of 3 of the following workshops:

- Auto Mechanics
- Bread baking and sales- making and selling traditional sweet bread
- Barber shop- offering discount haircuts to those in need every Wednesday.
- Candle making- new this Fall preparing for pre-Christmas sales.
- Decorations- preparing table decor and other items for baby showers, birthday parties and holidays for sale to public via pre-order on social media.
- Soap Making- goats milk, shea butter and glycerin soaps available for sale to public via social media.
- Videography and video editing- making LSM materials available to public free of charge for YouTube, Facebook as well as video trainings for local first responders: LSM for specific topics needed by firefighters, paramedics, and medical staff.
- Welding- new in 2024 for young men.



Family Outreach: This area of CMM outreach focuses on meeting the physical needs of Deaf individuals and their families in the area.



Clothing Pantry: The clothing pantry continues meeting needs of families at CMM and others in the local community with specific needs with clothing free-of-charge each season. For some CMM students, this is their only source of clothing, undergarments, shoes, and linens.

Medical Care: CMM provides medical care, free-of-charge, medicines and physical therapy through a partnership with a medical provider/CMM supporter in the US that provides telehealth appointments for any CMM student or family member without insurance or financial

ability to cover medical needs. Current CMM patients receive care for a variety of conditions from asthma, diabetes, heart issues, epilepsy, migraines, mental health, and more. Funds are raised by CMM through the Family Support Fund to cover costs of bloodwork, testing and medication at local Matamoros facilities. Sadly, most medical doctors in Matamoros still refuse service to Deaf individuals unless it is cash based at a private clinic. Although technically illegal due to violating their basic human rights, it is not something yet fixed in the community because of a mixture of laziness, corruption and cultural beliefs about deafness.

Food Distribution: Grocery staples are provided free-of-charge to families that demonstrate specific economic hardships including single mothers with Deaf children who fled domestic violence, experiencing short- or long-term unemployment or medical hardships.

Housing: CMM currently offers short-term lodging for Deaf females in need of safe housing. Our housing services are currently limited by a combination of lack of funding and ongoing construction on the property that will provide safe housing for Deaf males. When construction is completed on the property, CMM will also be able to resume housing females long-term. While heavy machinery is in use and the construction site increases hazards for minors, we had to pause the long-term housing availability.

Family Counseling: Group counseling for mothers of deaf teens is held via zoom and individual family counseling is provided weekly free of charge to all families of Deaf children, teens, adults by appointment at CMM.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Just over 12 months ago, ditches being dug launched the construction of the largest and most ambitious project in CMM history. The 2-story building with a total of 7,896sq ft will be used to house a Deaf church, Vo-tech workshops, and a dorm for Deaf males in need and short-term visitors. The size of the project reflects the needs of the Deaf community at CMM and the variety of purposes one building will provide for many years to come.

Generous donations made it possible for construction to progress with a very skilled masonry team. All block work is completed and the messy work of stucco application for waterproofing of first-floor rooms is happening now.



Now this Fall, we are faced with the need to once again focus on fundraising in order to complete the project. When we start a project, our goal is to always stay as close as possible to the quoted financial needs. Sadly, what is out of our control are the prices of materials to purchase the supplies. Due to supply demand and a few socio-political reasons we face in Matamoros, our previously quoted prices were not what we ended up having to pay. The supplies for the second story block and concrete that is now complete came in over budget. The supplies for the next steps, which are the installation of the metal roof of the 2nd floor, the supplies for electrical installation and the supplies for the metal for doors and windows (which will be fabricated at CMM) have SKYROCKETED over the last 12 months. We have more detailed explanations concerning the financial shortage/price increases that we can share directly via email:

sign4Dios@hotmail.com

Due to these unforeseen material increases, CMM will need an additional approximate \$40,000 to complete the construction project and prepare it for furnishing and usage. This additional need is based on current supply prices good through December 2024.

CMM FUTURE PLANS 2024-2025

1. When construction of the new building is completed:
 - Church services will be relocated into new space and evangelistic outreach programs will expand including mid-week prayer services and a discipleship training program on Deaf ministry for local church leaders.
 - New vo-tech workshops of HVAC and Electrical installation will be able to launch for Deaf adults.

- We have a waiting list of four young men awaiting dorm completion to move into CMM due to unstable home situations. Dorm space will be able to welcome 14 residents at a time.
2. Workshops providing in person training to Christian leaders and Bible college students in 2 cities in the state of Coahuila are in the planning stages to launch in early 2025.

MORE EXCITING NEWS ON UPCOMING PROJECTS COMING SOON!

ZUNIGA FAMILY UPDATE:

Chuy continues to oversee the building and vehicle maintenance, organization of activities and administration responsibilities. He is also working on improving family outreach videos and creating fundraising videos to widen the CMM support base for general operating funds and special needs.

Michelle has returned to full-time work at CMM for Fall 2024 after her medical problems. She has been released by her surgeon after 11 months of complications. Her focus is on educational programs, family outreach and medical interpreting. She is still following doctor's orders for her activity levels. She has follow-up medical appointments and pre-cancer screenings for Fall 2024 and Winter 2025.

Lizbeth continues to homeschool in the morning and helps at CMM in the afternoons.

Michelle's mom, Ellen Peek, sadly passed away in July. Since 2003 she was the creator and organizer of the CMM clothing pantry. In early March, she spent several days alongside Michelle and Lizbeth switching all the racks from winter to spring clothing to allow for the Spring clothing give-away. She was CMM's number one cheerleader back when it was all just her daughter's wild dream. She will be greatly missed by us as a family and by everyone at CMM.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Growth in Biblical knowledge and attendance at Deaf church
2. New Deaf children and young adults
3. Safety for students and staff families
4. Finances to complete the construction project
5. Emotional and physical healing for the Zuniga family



FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: WAYS YOU CAN PARTNER WITH CMM

Would you consider sharing about CMM with your family, friends or local churches? CMM is blessed with dedicated partners whose investments into the ministry have enabled lives to be changed since the ministry was founded in 2003. Current financial needs for the construction project, CMM vehicle repairs, CMM families' medical costs, and general operating expenses are vital to continuing the daily work of the mission. IF you are interested in joining the team as a monthly or one-time financial partner or if you are interested in making a designated donation to a specific outreach at CMM please consider the following donation options:

Via check: Workers for Mexico Mission

PO Box 400

Grayson, KY 41143

www.workersformexico.org

Via Paypal, ACH or Venmo please contact us at sign4dios@hotmail.com for more info. 100% of funds designated for CMM or for Deaf Ministry are processed by Workers for Mexico into the CMM ministry account.

We love to hear from you:

Email: sign4dios@hotmail.com

Facebook: Con Mis Manos Deaf Ministry

www.conmismanosdeafministry.org