

A Banner Year!

2017 Highlights

- **Winter**—published *30 Days to a More Resilient Faith*
- —winter clothes and classroom for refugees
- —2nd team deployed to Cuba (hurricane Matthew)
- **Spring**—Easter Gifts for Refugee Kids (Iraq)
- —helped churches provide relief supplies for Peruvian and Sri Lankan flood victims and home repairs for Filipinos
- **Summer**—Food for Syrian refugees in Lebanon
- — Encompass Crisis Response website!
- **FALL**—20+ teams deployed to Houston and Florida (Harvey & Irma)
- —Trauma Care team train workers in Mexico City Earthquake zone
- —Central African Republic: 50 orphans enrolled in private schools and 30 widows blessed with Christmas gifts

December 2017-January 2018

Who Could Have Imagined?

What once seemed an impossible dream actually happened this year—and God did it!

The shocking photos of Houston under water rallied churches in the Charis Fellowship (formerly the FGBC), who rose up together to serve in a way we never have before. What a beauty to behold!

Thank God who moved:

- 35+ churches
- to send 100+ people
- to serve on 20+ teams

Many thanks to two Ohio men (see page 2) whose tireless efforts and leadership were key to our teams' success: Kevin Smith (Ashland GBC) and Scott Farwell (Akron, Grace).

I LOVE OUR TRIBE!

But wait, there's more...

When a 7.8 earthquake rocked Mexico City in September, our **global family** also came together in an extraordinary way.

Working with Pastor Martin Guerena (left in photo) of Northwest Chapel (Dublin, Ohio), we pulled together a team of Spanish speakers from the Americas—from Mexico, Argentina, USA, and Chile.

This powerful Trauma Care team ministered to many Mexican believers—first in helping them process their own trauma, and then by equipping them to reach out and help others in their church and community.

Now the push is on to train up a core of trauma care workers for future teams. To this end we are hosting a Trauma Care Workshop Jan. 13-15 in Columbus, Ohio.



TEAMWORK!
In this picture (L to R) is 1 USA pastor, 1 Chilean missionary, 1 Mexican pastor, 1 USA National org leader, 1 translator, and 1 Argentine child psychologist.

Now What? Onward to Puerto Rico...

Puerto Rico's post-Maria needs are overwhelming, and pulling together a response has been a process of fits and starts.

We are so grateful for partners in Puerto Rico as well as in the USA, including CE National's Urban Hope.

PUERTO RICO RESPONSE

- **Jan. 2-4, 2018:** we partner with a local church in a Christmas outreach (Pastor Ivan, pictured)
- **Jan. 27:** our first of perhaps several home repair teams will deploy to Ponce, Puerto Rico.



Our partner Pastor Ivan Rios (R) distributing relief supplies after Hurricane Maria struck

PRAYER NEEDS

- 1) PRAISE GOD for much fruit for our labors—23 new house churches in Cuba and several new believers in Houston.
- 2) PRAISE GOD for your generous giving in advance of needs. THX U!
- 3) PRAY for much more spiritual fruit as teams continue to serve people in Houston and now also in Puerto Rico.
- 4) PRAY that our church partners do not become “weary in well-doing”. These have been intense months and the needs continue.
- 5) PRAY that our first trauma healing workshop (Jan. 13-15, 2018) will produce more trauma care workers.

**ENCOMPASS CRISIS
RESPONSE**

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“Equipping the Church to serve in crisis as only the Church can.”

Snapshots of 2017— “OUR HEROES” Edition!

There are so many I need to thank—like our pray-ers and givers and this year’s 100+ go-ers. But I must recognize some of the individuals who served side-by-side with me in the trenches in the crazy year that was 2017.



Drew Waggoner and Grace Fellowship (Pickerington) are always up for an adventure in missions! My heroes for building a tool trailer for our Houston teams!



Martin Guereña (L) & Mariano Azcarate. My heroes for leading our Cuba (hurricane) and Mexico City (earthquake) responses, which resulted so far in 23 new house churches in Cuba and many Mexicans trained in trauma care. (These 2 are trouble!)



Lola is my hero for offering to post weekly news updates on our website. What a gal—and a fun kayaking buddy to boot!



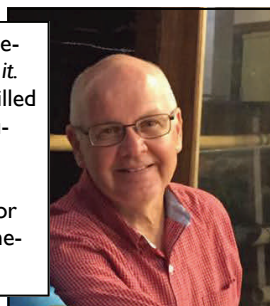
Every month my dear friend Miriam reduces my director’s report to a brief email update. Like clockwork. My hero fersure! (Subscribe at bwooler@encompassworld.org)



Jesus Munoz is my hero for carrying so much of our responses to Spanish-speaking countries. Loves the Lord and people, and understands crisis ministry.



Give Scott an impossible task—like Houston teams—and he’ll find a way to get’er done. Definitely my hero!



Kevin is my hero because *he really gets it*. Though a highly skilled craftsman and Houston team leader, nothing thrills him more than talking or praying with a homeowner.



These folks... Alan (L) & Vernon are absolutely my heroes—my sounding boards, idea people, advisors, encouragers, coworkers... Together with Ann (yellow), in July we pulled off our first preparedness seminar. At present, Ann is the event planner for our January Trauma Healing Workshop in Columbus. Heroes all!