



Catalyst Communiqué

Sept 2009



Dear Catalyst Partner,

Thank you for your partnership in the work of Catalyst. **We value each of you as team members that allow us to mobilize others in missions.** We are encountering God's movement in exciting ways in the lives of people as a result of their participation on a Catalyst short-term team.

There has been a long-standing discussion in churches, among missionaries, and among volunteer agencies about the effectiveness of short-term teams. This summer I have been hearing this conversation again in some church contexts.

As an organization that mobilizes people to be obedient and seeks to grow disciples by action, it draws my attention to the need to distinguish our work from what many have called "mission tourism." Below are some of the distinctives that set Catalyst apart.



Preparation: We train and track our short-term missionaries to the best of our ability. Our training includes site awareness, culture, gospel-sharing methods, and an overdose of servant mentality. We refute the stereotype, held by those in other countries, that Americans are loud, rude, and demanding. These are not just mission trip skills, these are **discipleship moments that last a lifetime.**

Application: We believe that missions' engagement teaches a lifetime Biblical missions' worldview. Experience is the best mission education. This is essential for our younger generations who are not always compelled by duty.

Multiplication: We work with select and tested partners. Our best and most trusted partners are teaching locals and nationals to carry the ministry of Christ to their own people. We attempt to use our time, talents and resources to multiply our efforts by empowering and encouraging nationals.

Un-Vacation: While we have fun on our trips, **our main goals are to serve and disciple.** Catalyst does not mobilize vacations. Activities not directly tied to the field are directly connected to teaching. Any "cultural time" is limited to less than 10% of our stay.

Glorification: We anticipate God's work in hearts and lives, and give Him credit when He:

- Draws others to himself on the field, and they begin to or continue to become stronger disciples of Christ.
- Calls volunteers who realize they have never truly been changed by Christ, and trust Jesus for salvation.
- Challenges volunteers to increase giving to all kinds of missions after a short-term trip.
- Convicts volunteers to commit to longer-term mission service after a short-term experience.
- Shows up to work in ways unusual to travelers, thus challenging them to expect God to be in charge of their day-to-day lives.
- Demonstrates HIS work among the nations to fulfill His Word.

Thanks for being a part of discipling people through mobilizing them on short-term mission teams!

Andrew Brown

PS – Please check the back page for recent trip reports and other exciting information.



Hope for Appalachia

“People don’t believe this can happen in America.” This commentary, from our new friend Mary,

haunts me as I think about the people of Ducktown, TN and the surrounding Copper Basin area of Tennessee. Here, my dad gave his pastoral calling and we, his family, gave our home and hearts to the people for almost 16 years. Now this area, once a boom-town of copper mining riches, is, like other areas of Appalachia, in a state of near-third-world need.



While shooting a documentary of the history, people, and needs of the Basin in July, I was called afresh to mobilize volunteers and specialists to meet the spiritual and physical needs of this beautiful remote area.

The people here need hope. Many of these people are working poor who are trying to make ends meet....they grab up any jobs and often commute insane distances to find work. Many are functionally illiterate. Often they have inadequate housing and are hungry. They desperately need the catalyst of Christ to change their lives to give them ultimate hope.

In short, **the people of the Basin need your help.** In as little as a weekend you can make difference. God will disciple you and you can disciple others as you reach out to be a CATALYST of positive change.

We could not work in this area without the long-term friendship and day-to-day intervention of the Copper Basin Crisis Center managed by Al and Margaret Patterson. These selfless career missionaries (TBC and NAMB) have gained the trust of the mountain people, and Catalyst serves in concert and support of this ministry.

Take a look at our new short movie about the Copper Basin at <http://catalystmissions.org/projects/appalachia.php> and see our project list and capital needs as we reach out and volunteer in the volunteer state!



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Catalyst Team Returns from Guanajuato, Mexico

This wonderfully beautiful place is tremendously needy. While we experienced many warm and friendly people, their understanding of God is very distorted, distant and dark.



Colleen and Rachel Regner along with the Mehlhorn and Rickert families truly

enjoyed the culture, the people and this 450 year old city. The trip allowed us to learn some Spanish, get to know the area and make connections for follow up ministry.

We had an opportunity to spend a bit of time at a nursing home. It was amazing to just be there with these people and try to encourage them in a small way. One fellow we met was 103 years old.



Catalyst is already beginning to plan a trip to the Esperanza Viva (Living Hope) Orphanage in Puebla, Mexico for 2010.



God is using this orphanage to impact the lives of hundreds of children, some right off the street.

We are very grateful for your partnership with Catalyst which enables us to be able to join in God’s global mission work. Thanks from the team. For the whole story and pictures visit <http://catalystmissions.org/mx-06-09.php>.

Prayer Requests

- That God will call others to join this work in His time.
- That God will remind us daily of His purposes.
- For inexpensive office space south of Nashville.
- Financial provision for our staff and operations.
- Strength to execute the next nine months of planned projects.

Praise Reports

- For our new campus interns, Ben and Lucas.
- Safe return and profitable time for the Mexico team.
- God’s provision of the services of CPA Larry Howlett, filmmaker Davis Watson, and realtor Rachel Brooks.