

Storing Up Mexican Treasures in Heaven

Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Mt. 6:19-21)

By the time Tim and Barb Wood started their work with Sports Outreach in Ometepec, Mexico, in 1998, they were already seasoned veterans in the world of ministry. From piloting in Alaska to organizing and leading crusades in South America, reaching others for Christ has always been what mattered most. Guerrero, Mexican state where Ometepec is located, was less than 1% Christian and had a lot of potential for sports ministry. Since moving there they have raised four children, established and grown the local church, helped plant three new churches, built a Christian camp on the west coast of Mexico, started a Christian school, maintained a chaplaincy program in the local hospital, trained and equipped others in sports ministry, and hosted numerous mission teams from the USA. I once asked Tim, "What do you enjoy most about what God has called you to do?" His answer was short and quick; "We enjoy storing treasures in heaven."



Treasures in heaven are treasures that serve God's eternal purposes. Someone once said that there are only two things that last forever—the Word of God and the souls of men. The focus of the Wood's ministry reflects this as each week finds them engaged in leading multiple church services, hosting small group Bible study, teaching and educating children, helping men and women find work, praying and sharing with the sick and dying at the hospital, participating in sports ministry, and shaping Christian community. Monthly activities might include organizing outreaches, directing youth or children's camps, presenting discipleship seminars, constructing or maintaining facilities at the camp, hosting visitors and teams from the USA and mentoring young Christians and pastors.

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With these two families now sharing the ministry load of Sports Outreach in Mexico, their neighbors and community are getting a glimpse of Biblical wisdom and truth in everyday lives. Together the Woods and the Johnsons are modeling Christian marriage and relationships as well as what it means to serve the body of Christ. When I think about what these families are doing I am reminded that I must get serious about storing up treasures in heaven. In this day and age it is easy to be sold out for treasures on earth. But the eternal values and truths being taught and lived out in Ometepec are important examples for all of us. The sacrifices made are great, but they are looking toward the heavenly reward that will follow.



Whether in Mexico, Africa, or the U.S., SOI staff minister by sharing the Word of God, providing food, shelter, or schooling, and, above all, letting people know that they are treasured by a God who loves them and wants to spend eternity with them. If you feel led to share any of your earthly treasure to help these ministries it will be richly rewarded.

Blessings, Rodney

This past year Ben and Katie Johnson and their children moved to Ometepec from Charlotte, NC and have made a two year commitment to assist Tim and Barb and the ministry efforts of Sports Outreach in partnership with Missionary Athletes International. Ben is a retired professional soccer player, and Katie is a four-time all-American soccer graduate of Westmont College. Both bring a wealth of background in sports ministry and this, combined with their tremendous Christian faith, zeal for evangelism, and servant hearts, provides a powerful picture of God's love in action.







The Woods and the Johnsons challenge us to ponder where our treasure lies. By Jesus' definition, it is not primarily about amassing individual wealth and then giving it away. It is about each of us being involved with the people that God has placed in our piece of the vineyard, and then sharing with the others the work of the vineyard. We do it together. That is the manner in which we lay up treasures in heaven. These treasures bring joy and satisfaction. We may have to work hard, but these treasures cause us to grow and affirm purpose in our lives. There is no substitute. There are a whole lot of things which moth and rust will corrupt; but not the kingdom work we do for, and with, one another. Restoring hope and justice! Empowering and strengthening the poor and lonely! With those things there is no moth that can corrupt and no thief that can break in and steal. They are permanent. They are eternal. They are treasures in heaven.

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