

# Missions Update Fall 2023



## Spotlight: Short Term Missions Trip to Pruetts in Arizona

We are so happy that we were able to bless Brian, Bailey and their kids last month with a missions trip geared toward helping them! The Pruetts are located on a training base in Arizona – in the middle of the desert and far away from any towns. They have given so much of their lives and sacrificed a lot of comfort to help bring the Gospel to the most remote places of the earth. After living in the Philippines as a helicopter pilot, helping reach people in remote areas, Brian now trains others to do the same in other countries. The Gospel can now reach places like never before because of a helicopter's ability to land without a landing strip, and Brian is one of a handful of people who is skilled in this and able to train others.

Thank you to the team of volunteers who generously devoted their time and energy to makeover some of the Pruetts' space and to spend time with them. Some of the things accomplished on this trip were: deck build, landscaping, whole house water filter installed, Brian's office remodel, movie screen/projector, administrative work with the FAA, and time spent with the family.



<Before  
& After>



Watch Sunday's  
recap video,  
extended version,  
or Bailey's full  
thank you on our  
YouTube or →







## Delta High School

*We are blessed to be a blessing to our neighbors across the street throughout the year! Thank you all for your continued generosity to the staff, students, and their families. It is making a difference.*

Every year we like to host a nice **holiday meal for all the Delta staff**. Last year was the largest turnout with about 32 staff members. (I think only one staff member was gone that day!) This year's meal will be held in the barn on Friday, December 1st. If you would like to cook something for the meal or help with set up/clean up, see the sign up form in church center or email [justine.cassaro@ourelement.org](mailto:justine.cassaro@ourelement.org).

The annual **Delta High School Holiday Store** is scheduled for December 4th-8th. We need help during the week, helping teens shop and wrapping gifts. Help is also needed setting up after second service on Sunday, December 3rd. And we are now taking donations of new and gently used items. Anything that is in great condition is appreciated, so these students can get into the gift giving spirit and "shop" for their family, friends and even themselves. See the sign up form in church center or email [justine.cassaro@ourelement.org](mailto:justine.cassaro@ourelement.org).



### High Priority:

- Blankets, Towels & Toiletry Gift Sets
- Like-new items for Christmas gifting (decor, jewelry, toys, etc.)

### Other Items:

- Phone accessories, etc.
- Sports shoes: cleats, basketball shoes, etc.
- Hats, beanies, warm socks, jackets, accessories, etc.
- Christmas ornaments, decorations, cards, etc.
- Any type of game, including board games
- School supplies
- Home goods: towels, kitchenware, cookware, etc.
- Household essentials, blankets, candles
- Baby gear, including strollers in nice condition, car seats for babies.
- Clothing and shoes for all ages of people: babies through adults in good condition, new socks, including formal clothing

**We would appreciate any sort of donation you can make. All donations will receive a tax donation slip. We need all donations delivered by Sunday, December 3rd, 2023. EMAIL [DELTA@OURELEMENT.ORG](mailto:DELTA@OURELEMENT.ORG).**

## RUANGOLD FAMILY Missionaries in Thailand



Tom and Jing continue to impact their community to the fullest. They continue their home gatherings, the children's center, youth group, and Sunday preaching and lunch gatherings. And they just got back from taking another group of teens to a youth camp out of town. The high school scholarship program is running great! Four of the students have come to believe in Jesus this year and have started attending church with Tom and Jing, and their own high school son and other youth have been trained on how to be a part of a worship team. Their recent prayer requests are:

- Pray for their Friday night gathering that brothers and sisters would join in on the worship and prayer
- Pray for the group preparing the Christmas show, that they would have wisdom and sufficient funds
- Pray for the upcoming special event promoting the importance of Bible reading.





New!

## Awakening Giantz

Awakening Giantz serves young adults exiting the foster care system or those who have been impacted by foster care. By providing a community to connect to, they are helping young adults shift from a surviving mindset to a thriving mindset. Awakening Giantz provides a community of mentors, planned workshops, resources and events that cultivate their sense of belonging and the ability to thrive. If you would like more information on how to connect a young adult to this group or are interested in how you can help, find their facebook page at [www.facebook.com/AwakeningGiantz](http://www.facebook.com/AwakeningGiantz) or email [awakeninggiantz@gmail.com](mailto:awakeninggiantz@gmail.com).

Element hosts Awakening Giantz and their events several times a year. You can also support them at our Old Town Christmas Eve Service by providing blankets, jackets, new socks, and toiletries for the *Winter Essentials Drive* for transitional youth.



Rescue Mission Alliance is excited to open another local recovery home – this time for women! They are having a housewarming tour and time of prayer on Saturday, November 18th. Email [Justine.cassaro@ourelement.org](mailto:Justine.cassaro@ourelement.org) for more information.



### Volunteer Opportunities

- Sonographer 1 day a week for 4-5 hours. No diagnosing. Check for heartbeat, gestational age and to rule out ectopic. Active license and training required.

- Bi-lingual Client Advocates 1 day a week for 4 hours to facilitate parenting classes and pregnancy tests. Training provided/required.

- A volunteer to manage the clothing boutique – someone good at organizing and paying attention to detail.

- A volunteer to do a once a month surface cleaning of the clients' rooms/reception area.

- Licensed contractor who can remove a sink and countertop to create more storage space. They said to come on by and will show you!

Please email Christina with any questions at [christina@carenetsm.com](mailto:christina@carenetsm.com)

Our local chapter provides weekend meals for 240 students, including Delta and Patterson students.



**BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK**

Volunteer Positions available (1-2 hours/wk):

- Community Engagement: Marketing /social media management
- Fundraiser: Monetary and in-kind donations, community and social media fundraisers
- School Liaison: Sign up new schools and manage school programs, coordinate deliveries to schools

Contact Nancy at [santamariavalleyblessings@gmail.com](mailto:santamariavalleyblessings@gmail.com)



"Come September, we had a prayer walk around campus the week before students arrived, then handed out flyers and met many new international students during the club fair and a welcome party hosted by the Office of International Students and Scholars. Our own Welcome Dinner was September 29, and we had a great turnout of over thirty students, most of whom were new! They were all so appreciative of the delicious pasta dinner, generously provided by Pascucci restaurant. Then on October 7, we had a fun beach day!

Praise God for the influx of new students, a solid volunteer team, and his Spirit leading and guiding it all. Please pray with us for students to feel welcome and know that all we do is through the love of Jesus, that they might love and follow him as well.

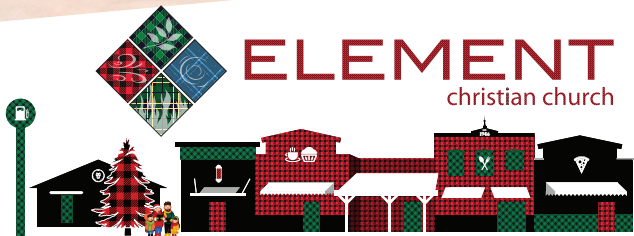
Additionally, we're looking to start a downtown Conversation Café, which would serve students at Santa Barbara City College and the local language schools. We already have a great partnership with some Westmont College students to start up this ministry time and are seeking out the location where God would have us. Please pray for the right location and that students would come and be blessed through this conversation café." – Kristal Melton



*When:*  
**Sunday, December 24th, 3:30-5pm**  
*Where:*  
**Broadway Street in Old Town Orcutt**  
*between Clark & Union Ave.*

*What:*

- Traditional Christmas Sing-Along Concert
- Kids Activities: Kids Karaoke (3:30-4pm)  
 Crafts, Face Paint, Bounce House
- Photo Booth with Souvenir Pictures
- Mr. & Mrs. Claus
- Food & Drinks For Purchase
- A Winter Essentials Drive Supporting Transitional Youth. *Optional: bring and donate blankets, hygiene products or coats to prepare for winter.*



## Some Ways to be Missional:

1) Invite your friends and family to, and help with, our Old Orcutt Christmas Eve Celebration. We have lots of ways from decoration, "get out the word!" promotion, loading and prep, road closure, greeters, runners, family booth helpers, prayer team, and much more. Scan the QR code to sign up:



2) Help grow our High School Ministry: Serve, build relationships, and disciple students. Email Kevin at [Kevin.kaub@ourelement.org](mailto:Kevin.kaub@ourelement.org).

3) Join or start a Gospel Community and together reach out to neighbors, friends, coworkers with the Gospel. Consider joining our "Gospel Fluency" Cohort next year. Email [michelle.gee@ourelement.org](mailto:michelle.gee@ourelement.org) for more info.

4) Parents: Beginning 11/12/23 on the patio after Sunday services, our eFamily! ministry will have age-appropriate devotions for your whole family for sale. Be sure to check out what's available.



## Other organizations we are connected with:



[www.pfssfa.org](http://www.pfssfa.org)



[www.tamarcenter.org](http://www.tamarcenter.org)



[www.captivehearts.org](http://www.captivehearts.org)



[casaofhope.org](http://casaofhope.org)