

## **Boys Camp – 2006**

### **Cabin Devotion: Wednesday, July 26, 2006**

Scripture reading: Matthew 25:34-40

The Tarahumara Indians (**tah** ra-u-**mah** ra) live in a remote, mountainous area of the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. Recently three Texas Baptist churches joined together in a partnership to support a missionary to this group of people. First Baptist Church, Athens, First Baptist Church, San Marcos and Bacon Heights Baptist Church in Lubbock prayerfully and financially support Ernesto Santiago as their missionary to the Tarahumara people.

But they do more than just pray for Ernesto and give financially to support him. They also take mission trips to that region to help in other ways. Ted Mettetal is a medical doctor from First Baptist Church in Athens. He was part of a team of medical personnel who went to Mexico recently to conduct medical, dental, and vision clinics for the Tarahumara Indians. He says when the people ask, "Why are you doing this for us?" it gives them the opportunity to explain that "The love of Jesus is why we are there."

Steve Akin, Minister of Music and Missions at First Baptist Church, Athens, says this is what God put us here for – to minister to and serve others in Jesus' Name.

The people who come to these clinics often have to walk for hours just to get to the location where the clinics are being conducted. Most of them are barefoot or have open sandals.

Gayla Baxter, one of the members of the mission team, performed perhaps the most simple and yet extra-ordinary act of service. She washed the feet of the women and children who came. Tearfully, she said, "To be able to serve these women and children in a way that they have never been served before – I'll never, ever forget that.

The members of these three churches have discovered the joy of taking Jesus outside their churches to people who, otherwise, might never have heard the message of salvation in Christ. They say, "If God is calling you to do something; then do it. He will provide the means and He will bless your efforts."

Jesus said. "I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." The members of these three churches are already working in the harvest fields. They are builders of the Kingdom.

## Questions for Discussion

1. Have you been to visit the doctor lately? How did you get there? Can you imagine being sick and your mother or father having to walk with you for hours just to get to a clinic?
2. Should we be concerned about people in another country who need medical help? Do you agree with what Steve Akin said – that this is what God put us here for – to minister to and serve others in Jesus' Name?
3. Would you like to wash someone else's dirty feet? Is that something Jesus would do? Have you ever thought of a missionary doing things like that? What other ways can you think of to show the love of Jesus to a needy people?
4. Should we help people with their physical needs before we try to tell them about Jesus? Why?

Written by Dr. H. Gene Meacham, Director of Missions for Caprock-Plains Baptist Area of Associations