

# The Vistoso Voice

Friday, October 22, 2021

## Weekly

### THE DAY OF THE DEAD VERSUS CHRISTIANS

by Kathryn Farris

*We regularly pray for our missionaries and bring them before the Lord to be: ...wise as serpents and innocent as doves. (Matthew 10:16). This article is just a sampling of the kinds of challenges they face from a missionary who is now part of our fellowship.*

A little town in the mountains of Southern Mexico is all astir! The streets are swept clean; crepe paper cutouts adorn the doors of the shops; stalls in the outdoor market are weighed down with trinkets from the city; cook fires are lit and women have begun to prepare special dishes—some to eat and some to put on family graves and on the altars in their homes for the spirits of the dead to eat. It's the Día de los Muertos.

Families take great care to sweep the graves clean and decorate the tombstones with flowers. Favorite foods are placed on the graves for the spirits of the dead to enjoy. The town band is in demand to provide music, and alcohol flows freely. For most people, it is a happy, exciting time

when the spirits return. However, they take warning because they believe the spirits are not always safe and bad things could happen.

The Day of the Dead is definitely a time when Christians and Culture are at war. Here's just one clash to consider.

- **Culture.** It is a tradition of the people at this time to bake a very special bread in the form of a corpse. It is often given as a gift to friends and anyone who happens by. To refuse a gift is an insult.
- **Christians.** A number of people have put their trust in Christ and a small church has formed. The Christians feel that the bread is evil and they should not eat it or accept it as a gift.
- **Missionary.** The missionary, a Bible translator, believes that no matter what the shape of the bread is, it is still just bread. It is not an idol and it has no power. It is bread.



What should he do? Should he make the decision not to eat the bread since it would offend the believer, whose conscience is tender? Or, should he accept the bread as a gift and eat it, rather than refuse it and run the risk of insulting and possibly driving away the very people who need most to hear the Gospel?

And that's why missionaries need our prayers.

### REMINDER

We are accepting donations at the Church office of clothing and personal items for Tucson area nursing homes until Sunday, October 31.

### FILLING A SHOEBOX ONLINE

Beginning last year, Samaritan's Purse instituted a new method of filling shoeboxes online. You can select items to fill a box or you can elect to have the box filled for you by making a \$25 donation. Shoe boxes built online go to places that are hard to reach with the Gospel, including unreached people groups and the Pacific islands.

Sharon Stark has set up an online donation page for VCC, so that boxes filled from this page, either by selecting items or by cash donation, are counted toward the Vistoso Church giving total. To reach the VCC page (at right), click on the link below or copy the URL and paste it in the address line at the top of your computer screen.

<https://build-a-shoobox.samaritanspurse.org/view/d892230b-8278-4a03-be5b-9b86342e6486>



## THE REST OF OUR NEW MEMBERS

**Rita Hagemeyer** was born in Chicago, but grew up in the suburb of Oak Park. She graduated from DePauw University, Greencastle, IN, with a major in Oboe and a minor in piano. She taught elementary school music for 39 years, 36 of which were in San Carlos, CA. She taught both classroom music and chorus for children from kindergarten through seventh grade traveling to multiple schools.



Rita noted that an outstanding experience was traveling with her friend Carol Ferarini (also a new member) to Europe two summers to study music. They spent one summer in Hungary and one summer in Austria.

After retirement, Rita and Carol moved to Bellevue, WA, where they lived for 14 years. A major interest during that time was Bible Study fellowship and community Bible Studies. She notes that, thanks to family living in Tucson, she now lives here where the weather is better. Despite the fact that she has had two knees, two hips, and one shoulder replaced, she still "plays at golf." She also loves the symphony and opera.

**Kim and John Staebell** met in Seattle when they lived in the same condo complex. He was working for American Airlines and Kim was working for Boeing.

Kim was born in Washington State and grew up in Port Orchard on Puget Sound. John was born in Ohio, but the family moved to Tucson when he was

five years old. John has one son, who was six years old when they married in 1990. He also lives in Tucson and has one son.

After they both took early retirement, they moved to Willcox and bought an RV park. After running the park for 22 years, they sold it in 2017 and moved to Heritage Highlands.

Kim reports that they looked at several churches and didn't find one that merited more than one or two visits until they came to VCC. John works in the Sound Room for services and Bible studies and often rides his three-wheel motorcycle to church for his shifts. Kim keeps busy around the house and is happy to be living in a quiet area that is not on a highway.



**JoAnn Ullery** was born in Pipestone, MN, but grew up in NW Iowa, near Sioux Falls, SD. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Master's degree in education. Although she did some teaching, she was drawn to the technology side when she taught software programs. After 22 years on the staff of South Dakota State University, she retired as Director of Networking Systems and Services.

JoAnn and her husband Dennis Bobier live in Heritage Highlands. They moved to Arizona when they decided that they were tired of snow and cold weather.

Dennis, who taught at Black Hills State University, has health issues that keep him close to home, so JoAnn first visited VCC with her neighbors Gary and Jeanne Theobald. JoAnn has two children, a son and a daughter and three grand dogs. She loves to read and does a lot of painting in both water colors and acrylics. She is also taking an online classes to certify as a copywriter and do website audits.



## thisweek

**October 25-31, 2021**

- **Tuesday**, Men's and Women's Genesis Bible Study, 10:00 am-11:30 am.
- **Wednesday**, Midweek Bible Study, in church and streaming, at 10:00 am.
- **Wednesday**, Choir practice, 2:00-3:30 pm.
- **Thursday**, HeartCall Ladies Bible Study, 9:30 am.
- **Friday**, Men's Bible study, 7:30 am.
- **Friday**, Women's Share, Care and Prayer, 10:00 am.
- **Sunday**, worship, 10 am, followed by fellowship and sermon Q&A.

### Vistoso Community Church

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Office Hours: Tuesday-Thursday:  
10 am-2 pm;  
Friday: 8 am-12 noon

**Pastor: Kevin Redig**  
**Emergency: 520-403-4088**