Community In Acts

January 19, 2026

Mark 9:40-41 "for whoever is not against us is for us. 41 I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward."

The context in Mark 9 is Jesus' disciples found an exorcist casting out demons in the name of Jesus. They wanted to stop him, but Jesus' response was a bit surprising. He reasoned that anyone performing a miracle in His name cannot, in the next moment, say something bad about Him. He then goes on to say, "for whoever is not against us is for us." From the extreme of miracles to the other extreme of a neighborly gesture, such as offering a cup of water in the name of Jesus we identify ourselves with Jesus. In so doing, we encourage others to identify with Him. A neighborly gesture maybe a miracle depending on just how thirsty our neighbor is.

Christ First Church

This week we are blessed to have a team of 20 from our main supporting church. They had quite the ordeal getting out of Mexico City, but by God's grace they arrived here at Emerald Coast healthy and a bit tired. Their mission this week is two-fold drill and share the Gospel via water filters. We will finish the well that we started a few months back and begin a second new well in the village of La Victoria. We will be running the Beretta rig and the DR-20. George Ley came down on Friday with a new starter for the Beretta. Saturday, Juan, George and yours truly spent the day installing it and getting the rig ready for this week. Because we could not start the rig, we had to drive the tractor back to the drill site and lift the tower with the front-end loader and then block it up in place. There were some scarry moments that had George moving faster than I had ever seen him move. We got it done and ready to drill. We are very thankful for George's assistance.

The second job is to share the Gospel by gifting our neighbors with water filters (giving a cup of water in Jesus' name) and sharing the Gospel. Nate, one of the pastors from Christ First, did a great job preparing the group, acquiring the filters and getting the team down here. After setting up both drill sites, we will break for lunch and teach the group how to assemble the filters, maintain the filters and then we will divide the group in half and go door to door. Sandy will lead and translate for one group and I will handle the other group. Each group will divide up the following jobs as they go door to door – 1. One member of the group will assemble filter, explain how it works and how to maintain it. 2. One member of the group will share their testimony of how they came to know Jesus as their Savior. 3. One member of the group will answer the question, "What difference has Jesus made in your life since that decision?" 4. All members will be praying for the person who receives the filter for God to be working in their heart and mind to receive Jesus as their Savior. This will be done each afternoon, some will stay drilling while the others share the Gospel.

Prayer Requests:

1. Please pray that all of the equipment function and for the safety of team.
2. Please pray that we get water at both drill sites and bless the small village of La Victoria.
3. Please pray that many in La Victoria come to know Jesus as the Lord and Savior.
4. Please pray for the construction of Emerald Coast Seminary to be completed soon.