

A healing trip to India by Terri Rider

Terri Rider, Accounts Payable, recently went on a Mission trip to India—her second one in two years. Following is her account of the trip and the people she and her group helped.

On my recent trip to Punjab, India, a state nestled between Kashmir and Pakistan, a group of 18 Americans, from 6 different states, came together to work side by side for two weeks providing medical care and information to the Dalits, or the Untouchables of India.

When U.S. people heard I was going on a 2 week mission trip, the most common response was, "It's only 2 weeks, will it even make a difference?!"

Ask the lady who received a wheelchair, or the man who had surgery paid for, so he could have the use of his arm returned, or the child who had his spinal fluid leak repaired, or the lady who had her demons cast out & was baptized the following day.

Every patient needing follow up care – had it paid for. So yes, 2 weeks does make a lasting difference.

The other most common response was, "Why don't you help people in the US!" The U.S. takes care of their citizens. There are avenues for low income housing, free medical care, shelters, food banks, job placement/training, welfare ... India has nothing.

We had come to build relations and treat the Dalits, the Untouchables. India's caste system is four tiered, and these are the only people recognized in their society: 1. Government, police, leaders, 2. Doctors, lawyers, literary 3. Retail merchants 4. Service: shoe shine, barbers, coolies, taxi drivers.

The remaining 80 percent are "too filthy" to be classified as human beings. These are the laborers, the rock breakers, the garbage scroungers, the raw sewage divers, the dead cow removers They are born into a caste, and born into a profession. There is no choice of escaping either.

Fifty percent of India lives below poverty, classified as 1 meal a day. Most of the Dalits are not allowed to store, buy or grow food. Their nourishment comes from rotten food in the garbage piles on the roadways, only to compete with the cattle, hogs, dogs, & umpteen million other starving people. Their other supplement is hunting rats in the fields. The situation is so desperate, that when Christians have a drink of water, they say a prayer of blessing before drinking.

We set up 2-day clinics in 3 villages in the state of Punjab, which is nestled in the northeast region between Kashmir & Pakistan. In total, approximately 2,500 people were treated for 3rd degree burns, tumors, nerve damage, polio, and various other ailments. Surgeries, treatment for follow up care, equipment and/or medications were all free of charge.

My responsibility was with public health. We provided basic information of brushing teeth, daily bathing, and the importance of washing hands with soap. One lady, who was easily 70, came to us for another teeth brushing demonstration. She was given a tube of toothpaste and was shown how to hold a toothbrush. She had just brushed her teeth for the first time in her 70 years.

We took every opportunity to touch and hug the Dalits. These people live in horrific conditions. They are neglected, abused, beaten and killed because of their caste – into which they are born, and of which there is no escape.

We visited a DEC school. These are the sponsored schools and students of the Dalits. We saw a glimpse of hope for a better future, in their eyes. These children, because of being taught in English, have an increased chance of having a more financially stable profession.

The third town we set up clinic, was in Amritsar, which was hosting a three-day Christian conference. This was the first Christian conference in Northern India. People came from miles away, carrying their bedding and personal belongings with them to stay the duration.

On the final conference morning, we were able to watch as 1000 people were baptized in a private ceremony in the river. They wanted to come into the frigid water to declare their loyalty to Christ. The new believers would go under water being scared of getting wet and cold. They would come back up smiling, joyful and energetic. Water buffalo swam nearby for a closer look. One by one, people took a step of faith to openly declare they were Christians in a country that doesn't like to see Christian conversions. They were not thinking about persecution that could ensue. They were thinking about celebrating their new life with Christ.

On behalf of the 2,500 patients treated, I thank everyone for their donations and what it represented.

Safety News by Mike Haller

As everyone in the construction industry knows, safety is no accident. Recently, Liberty Mutual Insurance Company awarded The Gallegos Corporation its highest commendation, The Gold Award, for its safe job sites. As a matter of fact, over the past year, The Gallegos Corporation's safety record beats the national average by 80 percent (from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor). With a peak workforce of more than 500 tradesmen, the company has lost only three work days due to injuries or accidents from September 2004 to September 2005.

"It's hard to beat the national average, especially when you take into account the various trades of work The Gallegos Corporation does," says Chris Volz, technical consultant for the loss prevention department at Liberty Mutual. "It's a tremendous accomplishment. The last time we gave out this award was 3 years ago."

The Gallegos Corporation takes the safety and health of its employees very seriously, says Mike Haller, the company's Safety Director. The Gallegos Corporation has done a lot over the past six years to increase safety on their job sites including employee safety training programs, controlling material handling, a safety incentive/recognition program, random safety audits and a zero-injury culture. Each one of the 450 field employees is essential to an effective safety program.

"I am really proud of our crews for not only logging a million man hours over the last year, but taking on projects in areas where we have never worked, and for doing all this with very few accidents, and no major injuries," says Gerald Gallegos, CEO and founder of The Gallegos Corporation.

Volz had statistics on TGC's overall performance which show lost time claim frequency has decreased by 50 percent, loss rate of payroll has decreased by 54 percent, disability day rate has decreased by 79 percent and claim frequency has decreased by 29 percent. All this means that more hours are spent on the job, getting it done right the first time.



Employees of the Months by Heather Hower



Dale Schiesser (Division 21) is January's employee of the month. Dale has been with The Gallegos Corporation for three years and has become an invaluable member of the Aspen Masonry Division. He has lived in the Roaring Fork valley for over 35 years and has more than 25 years of experience in the masonry business. His background includes extensive knowledge in brick, block and stone.

Dale was responsible for the on-site management and day-to-day operations/logistics of the recently completed Hyatt Grand Aspen Hotel. This was a very large, complex job with very difficult working conditions. "Dale gives 150 percent everyday," says Jim Bingaman, co-president for Division 21. "His positive attitude is contagious and his dedication to The Gallegos Corporation is incredible. We are proud to have him on our team."



February's employee of the month is Alfredo Villanueva. He was hired by the Denver Masonry division in December 2003. Over the past two years, he has proven himself to be a very skilled stone mason.

Alfredo is one of our top producers and is a lead man on every project he is involved in. Alfredo has those most important traits that make him stand out, which are strong work ethic and great attitude. He and his wife Julia have two sons, 4-year-old Juan Pablo, Jose Nicolas who is 3 years old, and a 2-year-old daughter Julianna.

Congratulations to the winner of the payroll information

Rafael Macias (20) \$40 Gift Card @ City Market
 Juan Lisardo (20) \$40 Gift Card @ City Market

Jon Lest (22) \$5 Gift Card @ Starbucks

Chad Woodworth (31)

\$5 Gift Card @ Starbucks



Estimator Coaches Kids to Victory by Heather Hower

On Sunday, January 8 Eagle's U-14 hockey team, coached by Billy Kuhn (Div. 10) beat cross-county rival Vail 5 - 3. For years kids from all over the county have been playing ice hockey for Vail's team, which is purported to have a higher level of play. However, two years ago, Eagle formed its own team and does not seem to know it's the underdog. "A lot of the 'A-team' players will drive all the way up to Vail to play on that team," Billy says. "The Eagle team is made up of leftovers, and it's only our second year, so it was really exciting to beat Vail. Hopefully this will let the down valley hockey community know that there is quality hockey in Eagle now, and parents don't have to drive their kids up valley anymore."

The team plays 14 inter league games throughout the winter, traveling all over the state. Jan. 14-15 the team competed in Gunnison in a tournament against 4 teams from New Mexico.

Safety Goals Achieved!

For the year 2005 each division set their safety goal for ZERO injuries. We had four divisions that obtained their safety goals: Divisions 31, 40, 50 and 90! This is a wonderful and challenging accomplishment. Keep up the good work and be safe in 2006.

Stone Yard's New Truck



The Gypsum Stone Yard crew stands proudly in front of their new equipment.

Keeping the Torch Burning by Heather Hower



The Gallegos Corporation had a part in the 2002 Olympics. Division 50's James Martinez, aka Two Feathers, ran the Olympic Torch back as it made its way to Salt Lake City for the games. James did this as a representative of all Native Americans and for Aspen, which was once named Ute City.

Happy Birthday!

January

- 1 Jose Guzman (20), Karl Stickrad (32)
- 3 Francis Fahey (32), Patrick Quigley (32)
- 4 Luis Ramirez (21)
- 5 William Pippen (90)
- 7 Zacarias Quinones (22)
- 8 Dave Barton (10), Ignacio Gallegos (20), Jose Rodriguez (20), Ignacio Pineda (21)
- 9 Randy Reid (40)
- 10 Jesus Sant Anna (32)
- 11 Gary Bowker (31)
- 13 Gerald Gallegos (10), Charles Kettle (31)
- 14 Sergio Pasillas (23)
- 15 Herminio Gutierrez (32)
- 16 Lucas Fisher (32)
- 17 Jose Flores (21)
- 18 Refugio Martinez (21)
- 22 Jesus Rivera (20), Juan Vega (21), Jose Villalta (22)
- 24 Bruce Hollingsead (24)
- 25 Manuel Hernandez (21)
- 26 Carol Gregory (23), James Heinritz (24)
- 27 Farron Flemister (32), Ismael Guzman (20), Steve Kalabany (20)
- 28 Bill McKeon (90)
- 30 Ricardo Garcia (31), William Pippen(40)

February

- 1 John O'Meara (23), Mimi Trombatore (21)
- 2 Gary Woodworth (31)
- 3 Benjamin Garcia (21)
- 4 Jose Herrera (24)
- 5 Felipe Martinez (24)
- 8 Alejandro Munoz (31)
- 9 Victor Flores (21)
- 10 Guillermo Rea (23)
- 11 Jose Lopez V
- 12 Sylvia Connely, (22)
- 13 Jason Braaten (31), Jose Armenta (20)
- 15 Dani Ettles (10)
- 17 Rich Passey (24), Edgar Hernandez (40)
- 18 Mario Becerra (20), Ramon Becerra (20), Jesus Beltran (31), Dan Maxson (22)
- 22 Mark Jordan (32), Shana Nelly (24)
- 24 Kenny Fairchild (24)
- 26 Alberto Flores (50)
- 28 Rosa McGuire (21)
- 29 Juan Parra (31)

Gary Woodworth, President of Plaster/Stucco would like to send out special thanks to the Aspen plaster crew for helping out with the Sonnenalp plaster project along with the individuals who continue to be flexible and travel to remote locations to accomplish our plaster work. This includes the Vail crew who has spent a lot of time in Jackson, Wyoming over the last few months. We know it's so hard being away from friends and family and appreciate your commitment!

HR Updates

Job Openings

Positions available in Colorado, California, Montana, and Idaho. We are looking for Masons, Hod Carriers, Plasterers, Latherers, Scaffold Builders, Concrete Finishers & Formsetters, Marble & Granite, Laborers, Accounting Assistant and Receptionist.

Contact HR if you are interested, or have a friend who would be perfect for any of these jobs!

Division 32 is pleased to welcome new project manager **Scott Christensen**

Seth Cole (Div. 21) & his wife Becky had a son, Ian, on 1/4/06. This is the 2nd child for them - he joins his "big sister" Avery at home.

Erasm Morales (Div 21) was married in Mexico on Dec. 17.

Linda Cereceres (Div. 10) will be transferring to the HR department as the new H-2B specialist and translator.

Anniversaries!

1 year

Jesus Martinez (32); Jordan Vasbinder (10) Mauricio Fuentes (21); Thomas Tenorio (24) Carmen Alvarez (22); Elias Ruiz (23) Ernesto Mendez (20); Jason Peck (20) Bruce Hollingsead (24); Travis Carpenter (21); Cody Ferguson (21); Delbert Squires (21); Jason Braaten (31); Connie Applegate (10); Agapito Chairez (20); Rick D'Errico (90); Gonzalo Ortega (31); Joshua Folkert (32)

2 years

Israel Mireles (21); Michael Hawley (40); Doug Lyells (21); Rodolfo Gracilazo (21); Dennis Hawley (40); Olivia Munoz (40); Abelardo Lopez (21); Ignacio Pineda (21) Berniece Fernandez (10)

3 years

Dale Schiesser (21); Sean Lattin (23); Jose Pinela (22); Jason Torgerson (20); Adrian Portillo (22); Hernan Flores (21)

4 years

Francisco Rodriguez (22); Fernando Velasco (22); William Dermody (32)

5 years

Ruben Astorga (21); Steven Jonson (21); Jason Wiethoff (21); Fernando Lopez (31); Eduardo Bernal (40); Stephen Inverso (21)

6 years

Tereso Saucedo (20); Zacarias Quinones (22)

7 years

Steve Laven (21); Mike Haller (10); Michael Hill (31)

8 years

Refugio Martinez (21); Benedetto Vitale (40); Jose Garcia (90)

10 years

Juan Pasillas Garcia (23); Jose Vega (21); James Heinritz (24)

12 years

Baudelio Rivera (20)

14 years

Pablo Castillo (20)

19 years

Ruth White (10)

Telluride's Christmas Festivities



Our sincerest apologies go out to our Telluride employees

who had a wonderful holiday party that we failed to tell you about in our last newsletter. Companywide we had seven parties and only reported on six of them

– it was just an oversight, but we are sorry that it was made.

On Friday, December 9, the group of about 30 stationed in the southern part of Colorado partied at Fiesta Guadalupe in Montrose. "A good time was had by all," says Jamie Woodworth, Div. 31. "The food was excellent, and the pool tables were

hot!"

Gary Woodworth, Division 31 president, awarded Charlie Kettle his five-year award, thanking him and all those in attendance for their dedication and craftsmanship skills.

A big thank you to all the guys who keep the projects in Telluride on track!

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TGC's Rock-Solid Start by Heather Hower

In the late 1960s, Gerald Gallegos started a job that would eventually lead to a career that would lead to his name being synonymous with quality craftsmanship set in stone. Summers during high school, Gerald started off as a mason helper and worked his way up to being a stone mason. In 1970 after he had completed his apprenticeship, he started his own company. In 1975 he had five guys working for him, and unlike most other masonry companies, they worked through the winter months.

"I saw Gerald growing his company and thought I want to be part of that, that I want to grow along with him," says Jake Jacobson, Division 20 President and employee since 1979. "I grabbed his coat tails."

Gerald's small company would grow and influence the overall design of one of the state's premier ski resorts—Beaver Creek. In 1980 business exploded with Gerald and his crew poised to be the masonry contractor of choice. TGC worked on some of Beaver Creek's most noticeable structures. Even with all the work in Beaver Creek, some of Gerald's favorite projects are hidden in Colorado's countryside, because of the detail and complexity of them they stand out. The Wikert Residence in Colorado Springs and the Knapp Residence in Lake Creek are two that come to mind.

"Bud Knapp asked us to do things that we have never done," says Dave Little, president. "The research, the timelines, he knew he was getting the best quality. They were great clients to have."

It is no fluke that Gerald's company is a success—hard work combined with a loyal family and knowing the industry has paid off. He has his mother to thank for instilling such a strong work ethic—she often worked two jobs to pro-

vide for her six children. "Rosa is the backbone of this company. I have her to thank for so much," Gerald says.

Obviously, Rosa is far from being the only family member who had a strong influence on the direction of the company. In 1980 brother Bob joined Gerald in Vail. This was to be a part time job for a couple of years, helping set up and run the office. Thirty years later and Bob still commutes from Denver to report for work. Glen joined the staff in 1997 heading up the operations side of things.

In an area known for its transient work force, The Gallegos Corporation's employees are an extended family in itself. The company has an unusually high number of one and two decade veterans—Jake Jacobson, Andy Romero, Gary Woodworth, Dave Little, Sam Johnson, Rozi Wood, John Trujillo, Marvin Franklin, Ruth White, Patrick Klusmire, Jesus Sanchez and Mike Cleveland to name a few.

"In looking at our success we must recognize that many people have helped us become the company we are today," Gerald said in 1998, and still firmly believes it today. Included in this list are the Division Presidents who started years ago and helped build the business from the ground up: Jake Jacobson, Gary Woodworth, Sam Johnson, Dave Little, Mike Cleveland.

After 9-11 businesses all over felt the pinch and the economic downturn, and The Gallegos Corporation was no different. However, instead of stagnating the company looked to expand into other markets and credits the long-term employees' dedication to pulling through that time. This included looking across the Western United States and getting work in Lake Tahoe, California; Big Sky, Montana; Ketchum, Idaho; as well as across Colorado—Denver,

Telluride, Colorado Springs, Aspen to name a few areas.

"The Gallegos Corporation would not be the leader in the industry without all of the workers who stand by me and behind our work," says Gerald. "The workforce is like family to me. It was important for the company to keep growing even as the industry was tightening, so we moved into other regions and other markets."

There are the long-term employees and there are several generations of families who now work together, something that makes Gerald proud. A few of the families who work together are Jamie and Chad Woodworth and Blaine Peters and his brother Kevin in Division 31, Division 40's Tony Caro and his son; Jose Chairez and Edgar, Dustin and Randy Hobbs in Division 32, four Becerras working for division 20, father and son Antillons, Jose Maria Guzman and his son, Julio Cesar, and Jose Angel Chairez in the marble shop, whose son comes up as an Amigo each summer to help division 20.

"I love to see fathers, uncles, nephews and sons working together on our job sites, that our company is a part of their lives," Gerald says. "We see each of our employees as integral to our success, and as extended family members. Without them, there would be no Gallegos Corporation."

Far from being the small crew that was the start of TGC, the company has expanded into other arenas. First came concrete, then stucco/plaster and finally marble/granite. With the addition of each of these divisions The Gallegos Corporation took on more work and its reputation for creating masterpieces soared.

More on TGC's entry into new markets and other trades in the next issue of *The Gallegos Gazette*.

THE Gallegos CORPORATION

Building Solutions for Distinctive Projects



The Gallegos Corporation's Mission

To finish each job completely with the highest quality and with safety "the first time."

Provide construction and construction management services of the highest professional standard.

Generate profit from these services while adding value to our customers & employees.

Continue to grow as the industry leader.

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