

“GIVE YE THEM TO EAT”
AN INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR RURAL MEXICO

“GIVE YE THEM TO EAT”: GYTTE WAS FOUNDED IN 1977 AS A SOCIAL OUTREACH PROJECT OF THE METHODIST CHURCH OF MEXICO TO COMBAT HUNGER AND POVERTY IN THE RURAL SECTOR. THE PURPOSE OF THE GYTTE PROGRAM IS TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPABILITIES OF MARGINALIZED PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES TO MEET THEIR BASIC NEEDS, AND TO DETERMINE AND SUSTAIN A JUST AND INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. PARTICIPATORY METHODS AND DEVELOPMENT TOOLS ARE USED TO CREATE CONDITIONS IN WHICH CHANGE CAN TAKE PLACE FROM WITHIN THE COMMUNITIES. GYTTE USES PEOPLE-CENTERED APPROACHES TO DEVELOPMENT.

THE GYTTE HEADQUARTERS IS LOCATED IN THE CITY AND STATE OF PUEBLA, 75 MILES SOUTHEAST OF MEXICO CITY. TWO HOURS SOUTHWEST OF PUEBLA IS GYTTE'S “TREE OF LIFE” TRAINING CENTER FOR INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT. THE VARIOUS SERVICES OFFERED BY GYTTE ARE SHOWCASED THERE. AN EXPERIMENTAL FARM, INCLUDING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR RURAL MEXICO, IS MAINTAINED FOR AGRICULTURAL AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION; AND A LEARNING CENTER PROVIDES SPACE FOR COURSES AND WORKSHOPS.

OVERVIEW OF ALL SIX PROGRAM AREAS

COMMUNITY AND FAMILY HEALTH - “MORE THAN A BANDAGE”: THE OBJECTIVE IS TO GIVE RURAL FAMILIES THE OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY EQUIPPING VILLAGE WOMEN AS VOLUNTEER WORKERS FOR COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH CARE. THE TRAINING ENABLES THEM TO SHARE WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED WITH OTHERS SO THEY CAN EMPOWER PEOPLE TO PREVENT SERIOUS DISEASE BY CHANGING THE CONDITIONS WHICH CAUSE IT, AND TREAT ILLNESS IN ITS EARLIEST STAGE RIGHT IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY. THE WOMEN ATTEND 3 ONE-WEEK-LONG COURSES OVER AN 18 MONTH PERIOD. AFTER THE FIRST COURSE THEY ARE ABLE TO START TEACHING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: THE OBJECTIVE IS TO BETTER FAMILY LIFE; DECREASE HUMAN DRUDGERY; PROMOTE AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL SUPPORT; INCREASE PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF THE NATURE AND CAUSES OF COMMUNITY PROBLEMS AND LEARN A PROCESS TO OVERCOME THEM. APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TRAINING OFFERED IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF LOW-COST HOUSING, DRY COMPOSTING TOILETS, FUEL-EFFICIENT MUD STOVES AND SOLAR COOKERS, PUMPING SYSTEMS, AND THE RECYCLING OF RESOURCES. THIS IS ONE PART OF THE PUEBLO PARTNERS PROGRAM.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT: THE OBJECTIVE IS TO PRESERVE AND IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF THE LAND; IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND INCREASE FAMILY INCOME. COURSES ARE OFFERED IN CONTOUR TERRACING AND OTHER METHODS OF SOIL CONSERVATION; COMPOSTING AND MANURE USAGE, VERMICULTURE, FAMILY GARDENS; PLANTING AND USE OF MULTI-PURPOSE TREES AND CROPS; AND MEDICINAL PLANTS. THIS IS ANOTHER PART OF THE PUEBLO PARTNERS PROGRAM.

LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT: THE OBJECTIVE IS TO GENETICALLY IMPROVE THE LIVESTOCK OF THE REGION; INCREASE LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION; PROVIDE ANIMAL PROTEIN AND INCREASE FAMILY INCOME. THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED BY TRAINING PEOPLE IN ENVIRONMENTALLY-SOUND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND BY DISTRIBUTING FOOD AND INCOME-PRODUCING ANIMALS. GYTTE DISTRIBUTES MILK GOATS, HAIR SHEEP AND SWINE. THE COMMITMENT OF THE PROJECT PARTICIPANTS IS TO SHARE AN OFFSPRING FROM THEIR ANIMALS AS WELL AS THEIR NEW-GAINED KNOWLEDGE WITH OTHERS. THIS TOO, IS PART OF PUEBLO PARTNERS.

CHURCH AND FAITH DEVELOPMENT: THE OBJECTIVE IS TO BE SUPPORTIVE OF THE SPIRITUAL GROWTH OF METHODIST CONGREGATIONS THROUGH TRAINING EVENTS FOR LAITY AND CLERGY AS WELL AS THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF SPECIFIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MATERIALS.

THE A.W.A.R.E. PROGRAM: AWARE STANDS FOR ALTERNATIVE WORK-STUDY AND REALITY EXPERIENCE. THIS PROGRAM PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL AND WORK EXPERIENCES FOR MEXICAN AND INTERNATIONAL VISITORS, VOLUNTEERS, AND TEAMS, RAISING THEIR AWARENESS OF THE NEEDS OF RURAL MEXICO AND GIVING THEM OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE IN RESPONSE TO HUNGER AND POVERTY IN OUR INTERRELATED WORLD. THE EDUCATIONAL AND WORK EXPERIENCES FOCUS ON MEXICO AND RURAL REALITY; APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY; CREATION STEWARDSHIP; DEVELOPMENT; AND CHRISTIAN OUTREACH.