

The HOMES of ETHNOS360

Serving Those Who Have Served

FALL 2023



Our last quarterly newsletter paid tribute to the Lord for His grace in giving us The Homes of Ethnos360. His provision cannot be emphasized enough, whether in the form of previous volunteers, donors or prayer warriors. I wrote that we are the beneficiaries “of those who came before us to clear this land, give sacrificially and build these buildings” and “of those who come each year to help with the maintenance and to share our lives.”

Towards the end of that newsletter, I also wrote, “Thank you to the staff who labor here for the Lord even when some supporters don’t understand the value of this ministry.” I’d like to expand on that statement. Most friends of The Homes understand Ethnos360 missionaries who head overseas need to raise their own financial support. Ethnos360 does not pay salaries. What many people don’t realize is that it works the same way for The Homes’ staff. They also must raise their own financial support but without the appeal of heading to work in some far-off land with a mysterious people group.

Of our 25 family units on staff, two recently joined after working in secular employment for many years and are living off their savings. Of the 23 remaining units, 13 are living on less than 50% of their recommended support level. To pay their bills and provide for their families, several of them are working one or two outside jobs at night and on weekends. Of course, this is not unusual anymore in America. But our staff always work with a great attitude and care deeply for those they are serving, despite often being very, very tired. In the last six months, two of the three new units who were headed our way to join our maintenance team have had to drop out of the mission because they couldn’t raise the necessary support. Number 3 has been trying to raise support for over 2 ½ years and is still less than 30% of the way there. He may also need to drop out soon.

It’s a puzzling contradiction that churches are very happy that Ethnos360 provides this center for retired missionaries but are reticent to support the staff needed to keep it running. Incidentally, two thirds of our staff are over 60, and 10 of them are over 70. Pray that the Lord would not only send the replacements we need but that churches and individuals would see the value in supporting them. If you or your church would like to contact any of these staff families, please let me know.

As usual, our “winter” volunteers have begun to arrive, injecting some much-needed encouragement and extra hands to the labor. This is a beautiful time of the year to be in central Florida. We have at least five residences that need to be refurbished for new retirees and a lot of roadwork to be done. Pray for strength and for good weather when it is time to pour the concrete.

In His grace,

Homes

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