

State of the Alliance Kingdom Builders

Since the devastating Camp Fire, the Alliance Kingdom Builders (AKB) has been struggling with how to retool its ministries to best serve the future population & culture of Paradise, while ensuring our outreach will help people find and follow Jesus. Some AKB ministries have been put on hold while new ministries have emerged. Part of this retooling or transition process was to take stock of the rich history of AKB, the diverse ministries, and the devotion of the faithful volunteers. After much prayer and collaboration with the AKB team & church leaders, I believe AKB is prepared to move forward.

In 2008, a contingent of men from the Paradise Alliance Church came together and built the Blue House in Mexico along with the Garcia Family Room addition in Magalia. These two events gave birth to AKB resulting in momentum that brought about a passion and desire to do more. Over the years, four additional ministries were inspired and born out of the needs of our church and community and put into service. By 2018, AKB ministries, on average, assisted over 150 individuals each year, not to mention the life long immeasurable fruit of changed lives. Praise God and thank you to those who answered the call to serve in Mexico and Magalia, because of your faithfulness AKB is and, Lord willing, will continue to be.

It is no small task, nearly impossible to calculate the number of gallons of motor oil changed for the clients of Car Care by the devoted AKB wrench-turners. As clients waited on their vehicles, an AKB hostess was there to share the good news of Christ, listen to their story, and invite them to our church services. And never will be forgotten are the many emergency road-hazard repairs, replacement of new tires, brakes, lamps, and other services. These extra and unexpected repairs brought tears of joy to the Car Care clients; their gratitude reinforced Car Care's resolve to let their light shine brighter giving all glory to Jesus.

You have heard it said many times, "it's easy if you know how to do it," but for many elderly people in our church new technology doesn't come easy. Digital Life computer services helped seasoned citizens reluctantly learn new technology they didn't ask for yet admitted they needed and proved a unique challenge to its volunteers along the way. From learning what a Google is, how to copy and paste, to downloading pictures of their grandkids, Digital Life offered solutions to their tech problems either by way of instructional seminars or through many house calls.

The recession of 2008 brought a high rate of unemployment to the Ridge. Job Seekers formed to help anyone looking for work. A group of professional women and men hosted workshops and offered personal coaching assistance with compassionate accountability, prayer, and spiritual support. From the homeless, to ex-gang members, to mid-life career changes, Job Seeker volunteers were there to come along side the job seeker and help them through the difficult challenges of finding a job.

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children.” Proverbs 13:22 Legacy Estate Planning’s goal was to work with church and community members to this end. A trio of professionals that included a certified financial advisor, long-term health care lawyer, and certified public accountant shared their knowledge and expertise in an educational setting resulting in a path for Estate Planning for clients to follow. AKB offered personal assistance for follow up to help clients get started on this path.

AKB’s Missions Team was mostly devoted to the construction of what is now called the De la Base Misionera en Mexicali located in Mexicali, Mexico. Beginning in 2009, and every year since, a group of 40-60 volunteers dedicated seven days to build. Starting with the physical rehabilitation center expansion and the director’s house, to the dormitory that sleeps 30, then a dental clinic, a kitchen expansion, new septic and leach fields, and the last mission build was the 3000 sq ft worship center completed in 2017. These trips became a fertile ground of faith for both the new followers of Christ as well as long time believers. The spirit of the Lord touched the hearts and minds of the workers; nobody came home the same after a Mexicali mission’s trip. Today the Missionary Base Camp has a full-time director and is used by many other churches from all over the country, bringing their own mission teams to serve the barrios of Mexicali. AKB planted seeds of faith, God grew them, and the fruit is evident as the harvest continues. The Base Camp is a beacon of hope, proclaiming the Word of God in the name of Jesus Christ our risen King and Savior.

A little closer to home in 2018, AKB Missions took on a re-siding project for a little country church in Paskenta, CA. The Paskenta Flournoy Church was originally a dormitory built in the 1930s to house the workers of the town’s sawmill. Since then, many birds and other critters, had made their homes inside the siding and walls creating an unhealthy and very drafty situation. During a three-day weekend, 20 AKB volunteers working side by side with Paskenta volunteers installed over 5,000 sq ft of vinyl siding. A long-time Paskenta church elder commented that he hasn’t seen the spirit of Lord work in this way for decades. AKB was told, this labor of love and service was an answer to many, many prayers.

Several of those who served in Mexicali returned with a passion to serve our own community. This passion and commitment gave way to the start of Home Repair. From the building fundraiser of the ‘Chico House’ to the remodel of ‘Julie’s House’ to the amazing accomplishment of the ‘Raising the Roof’ at Fire Station 1, these projects fueled momentum causing Home Repair to become the hands and feet of Jesus in our community. With a focus on health and safety, Home Repair found a large demand in the elderly and disabled community members. Wheel chair ramps, leaky faucets, electrical outlets, toilets, grab bars, plumbing, and flooring issues were all either built, repaired, or replaced. After completion of a Home Repair project a follow-up team would meet with the client to share the Gospel and pray for their needs. A core team of about 12-16 men and women gave year-round of their time and talents to meet these needs.

As part of the retooling process, AKB Home Repair has now been transitioned into and is administered by the Alliance Builders Foundation ABF; a newly formed non-profit foundation created by a group of godly men from the Paradise Alliance Church. ABF is positioned to take Home Repair to a new level. At the core of ABF are contractors who love

to build, and our AKB Home Repair volunteers who love to build. As a non-profit foundation, ABF has the resources to acquire building permits and hire professional staff as needed on larger projects and/or fundraisers.

AKB entered into a partnership with ABF with a house building fundraiser project called the South Libby House in Paradise, CA. The house was built before the Camp Fire in record time and at very low cost in part by to the amazing work efforts of AKB Home Repair volunteers and generous donations by contractors. The house miraculously survived the Camp Fire and recently closed escrow. The financial gains from the S. Libby House prompted the building of an additional house on S. Libby: South Libby House 2.0. God truly is amazing.

On November 8, 2018 an estimated ninety percent of the people left the Ridge causing a great dispersion the likes of which have never been seen before in California history. Among those in the exodus are the people whom AKB serves, its team leaders, and volunteers. Everyone has suffered the same fate – starting life over and finding a new place to live and work. AKB, as with many other churches, services, and business all but ceased to exist on that day. Who will return to Paradise? How many? How long will it take? These are the questions everyone is asking. Only God knows. But we do know we serve a good and gracious God who loves us. Paradise will rebuild and Paradise Alliance Church will become a refuge of hope on the ridge; a home for the faithful, and a place where our community can be loved and find healing.

The Alliance Kingdom Builders is poised and ready to move forward with new ministry foci that will serve the church and community with basic needs, services, and spiritual support. Each one of these ministry transitions has been prayerfully considered and will constantly be filtered through the lens of our primary mission of helping people find and follow Jesus.

To that end, AKB will adjust its ministries in the following ways:

- I. By forming a team of volunteers dedicated to serve in partnership with the Outreach Pastor of the Paradise Alliance Church, the Disaster Relief Coordinator, Civic and/or Community agencies. This Outreach Team may do something as simple as handing out bottle water for the public water works department or assist with large community outreach, or relief projects.
- II. Assuming the CMA kitchen duties under the direction of AKB Food Services; this will include cooking meals for our church family and providing food and hospitality service for outreach events.
- III. Continuing the Job Seekers ministry but with a focus on social media sites offering job search information. The Paradise Jobs Facebook Group page will continue as a jobs listing bulletin board.

My prayer and beliefs are that AKB will emerge stronger, and by the Lord's grace, we all will emerge stronger in faith, being marked by His love, and instilled with gratefulness and thanksgiving that has no bounds. I pray that AKB's roster of volunteers will increase as needs grow along with our town and church accordingly, that all those who have supported AKB in the past through prayer, service, and financial support will continue to do so and be blessed a hundred-fold in return, that the light of AKB will shine so all will see the good works and give glory to our Father in Heaven, and most importantly that AKB continues the mission of helping people find and follow Jesus.

The Camp Fire forced a new chapter for the residents on the ridge and AKB. This new chapter will be written with the same inspiration and passion from our volunteers as our history has revealed. If you wish to be part of AKB and serve along side some of the most giving, God-loving, and self-sacrificing people please do not hesitate to contact me at boba@akbuilders.org or by phone at the Paradise Alliance Church office 530.877.7069

In His Great and Unfailing Love,

Bob Alderson
Director, Alliance Kingdom Builders