



by Catharine Lewis

“God, family, firm”: One lawyer’s mission

Above is the motto shared by Mick L. Proxmire and his firm, Reminger Co., L.P.A., and one he certainly demonstrates through his work with clients, his dedication to family and his many mission trips as a member of the Church of Nazarene.

Proxmire, who specializes in the areas of workers’ compensation and employer defense, originally worked in Trucking Risk Management before pursuing a career in law. This experience added insight to the business side of his law practice, but his mission trips have also contributed to his work as an attorney. Proxmire has participated in numerous trips around the world to improve the lives of the less fortunate and to share his faith with others, and he continues to return home with meaningful lessons and memories to share.

In Africa, Proxmire laid bricks to assist building a new church; in Mexico, he worked as a medical assistant for a physician; and in Nicaragua, he helped his team run electricity into a school. Proxmire believes, throughout these many manual tasks, the most important is the opportunity to “interact with the people and share the message of Jesus Christ to give them hope.”

Most recently, Proxmire visited Chiapas, the southernmost state of Mexico. This tremendously poor area formerly relied on drinking water from muddy lakes and streams nearby; therefore, the mission involved the installation of water filtration units to ultimately bring fresh water to areas in two separate villages.

During his time in Chiapas, Proxmire became aware of just how grateful these people were for the help and assistance but admired that they were never looking for a handout. “Their individual work ethic and physical capacity to work at any job is awe-inspiring,” said Proxmire.

Reflecting on these trips it was easy for Proxmire to recognize that the United States and its citizens are very blessed. “What we consider poor here is nothing to the world’s standard or definition,” said Proxmire. During his trips, he saw that, despite the less fortunate’s often “meager means and existence,” they push forward and are able to make do with what they have.

“I believe it is the role of the individual to help those less fortunate. What better way to help than to go, do and experience,” said Proxmire. “The experience is always humbling and keeps me grounded in who I am.”

Proxmire’s experiences have given him the chance to help the less fortunate and share his faith with people around the world, but many lessons learned on these trips were just as importantly brought back home. “The humility and inspiration I receive



Columbus attorney Mick Proxmire has traveled on several church mission trips to help build homes. He is pictured here with son Jarod during a recent trip to Chiapas, Mexico.

from participating spills over into my interaction with injured workers, employer clients and my colleagues.”

Of the many places he has traveled, Proxmire said that while “the trips [he has] participated in have varied in their scope and physical goal—the spiritual goal is always the same.”

So far two of Proxmire’s three sons have accompanied him on a mission trip and the experience is one of great importance to him. For Proxmire, “it is hard to describe what it means to a father to watch his boys become men. We go on the trip not as father/son but as brothers in the same cause.”

Proxmire encourages others to experience this kind of mission work for themselves. “I have been blessed with so much physically and materially. Others are not so fortunate.” Proxmire hopes all will have the chance to travel to make a difference for places in need around the world. ■

Catharine Lewis is a student at The Ohio State University and served as intern in the Ohio State Bar Association publications department.

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