

who went on this campaign sponsored by Aztec, were Shawna Roland, from the Bloomfield congregation, Justin & Becki Milliken, and Michelle Whitehorse (a teenager), from Gallup. Stan Stockstill, who was already in Lithuania with another group, joined them there.

1998 saw a group from Aztec going to Klaipeda. Barbara Beaty, Casey DeSiena, Jim & Patti Smith, and Patsy & Gerald Stockstill worked in Klaipeda for a month. Jim proved to be very good at attracting people through his magic show. The congregation in Klaipeda (partly from the work of people from Aztec) had grown from a few rooms in the Tailor School to the point they needed a separate building for classes and worship.

Barbara Beaty, Cynthia Beard, both from Aztec, and Keith Levy, from Granbury, Texas, joined the Gerald Stockstill for the mission trip in 1999. The church in Klaipeda was continuing to grow, and all of those who went taught several classes while there.

In 2000, the Stockstills were alone on the mission trip to Klaipeda. Each year that the team from Aztec has gone, there has been evidence of church growth, and most years there have been from two to 5 baptisms per year.

2001 saw the beginning of a new work. One of the American men in Lithuania, Scott Heft, had been holding services in Panevezys for about 6-8 months. The congregation in Waterview asked if we would be willing to work with the people there to see if we could establish a church there. Johnny & Melba Baugh, from Coleman, Texas; and Gerald & Patsy Stockstill worked there for a month, and a church was established with 6 Christians.

OTHER FACETS OF THE AZTEC WORK

The mission trips are just one of the many great things about the church in Aztec. Our youth program has bounced up

strong youth group. The Woodlawn congregation in Abilene, Texas, and the 4th St. Church of Christ from Portales, have both sent youth groups to hold or help us hold Vacation Bible Schools. The Sojourners have come to hold classes and knock doors for revivals and to conduct Vacation Bible Schools.

Preachers who have held revivals during the past several years include Gary Montgomery, Jim Morrow, John Driggers, and Pat Stephenson.

Through the years things have slowly changed. Women now wear pants to church with out a second thought; there are more fellowship gatherings throughout the week; Bible School and Worship Services are separate now; and we have Bible Hour for the younger children. We are using Videos and computers for teaching. There is a Monday evening, in-depth Bible study for the church, especially to help train teachers and preachers, as well as interested members. Men from the congregation take their turn at preaching on Sunday evenings. In spite of these changes that indicate growth, the church itself has stayed the same, the church of Christ.

The Aztec Church of Christ has seen many different members and preachers through the years. She has not lost her solid rock foundation upon which she was built. She has remained true to the Bible, to God's Word, and to the commission given by Christ. "Go...make disciples...baptize...teach"(Matthew 28:18-20)

Compiled by Brittany Morrow from available records)

whom needed it to get to church, usually children. When the program started Mr. Standard was the preacher and he and the other men were able to get one bus. That one bus was such a success and increased the number of youth attending our church so much that the church ended up having to get two more buses before the program ended. The attendance went from about 90 people every Sunday to 150 people at the height of the program.

During this time the church decided to build a new building. The men of the church organized our budget and money was borrowed and bonds were sold in order to get the new building. The building on 106 Simmons Rd. was sold to the Boys and Girls Club in 1975. A lot was purchased at 300 Ruins Rd. and the new building was constructed. Gary Standard continued to be the preacher and the bus program continued, adding new members to the church.

At the new church building things stayed pretty much the same as they had always been, with only gradual changes in the formality of dress. Men were still wearing suits and women usually wore dresses but a few were "daring" enough to wear a nice pantsuit. Preachers were coming and going, but the church did not change.

After Gary Standard, Ralph Anderson, Fred Willmon, Harold Reeder, and Greg Henson were preachers. While Greg Henson was the preacher the bus program ended in 1987. The cost of maintenance of the old busses simply became too great a burden

In 1991, the church hired its present preacher Gerald Stockstill, which was not an easy task. Gerald and his wife, Patsy, were preparing for a mission trip in Czechoslovakia at the time the men of the church contacted him. He and Patsy decided to move to Aztec during this trip, and after three months the Stockstills left the church in Andrews, Texas to come and preach for the Aztec Church of Christ. The agreement was that the Stockstills would move to Aztec, and the church would be willing to sponsor mission trips, and

become a focal point for mission work. The church agreed to this, so Gerald became the preacher. The church has supported mission trips, and sent many of its members on these trips.

OVERVIEW OF THE PAST MISSION TRIPS

The first was in 1994, to Birobidzhan, far east Russia. Members of the Aztec church of Christ who went on this trip were, J. M. & Diane Fisher, Nancy Kester, Steve & Kym Lyautey, and Patsy and Gerald Stockstill. Also on the trip were W. T. & Eleanor Stockstill, of Ft. Worth Texas; and Royce Sartain, of De Soto, Tx. These people were instrumental in establishing a church in Birobidzhan, which continues today.

In 1995, the Waterview church of Christ, began a work in the country of Lithuania. Lithuania is a country of about 3,000,000 people, and had no established church. They asked if we would be willing to work with them in this effort. We began our annual trips to Lithuania at that time, and have continued to work in that country since then.

The first year (1995), there were four who worked in Vilnius, Lithuania, the capital city of the country. Patsy and Gerald Stockstill, of Aztec, Kay Fowler, of Jal, NM, and Stan Stockstill, of Springtown, Tx. Were the members of that first team.

The second trip (1996) to Vilnius Included the Stockstills, Dale & Bob-Anne Frazier, Stan and Susan Stockstill, and Brad Sears (a teenager), of Andrews, Tx. There were baptisms at both of these mission efforts.

In 1997, Waterview held a campaign in Klaipeda, the most international city of Lithuania. The church here sent a team to follow up their work. Those

AZTEC, THE CHURCH BUILT ON A ROCK

The city of Aztec was expanding in the 1940's and 50's, due to the oil and natural gas boom and was rapidly becoming a small but productive town. Some people may find this hard to believe but Aztec once was a very small village with very few people and even fewer buildings. There were few churches in Aztec and no Church of Christ so most of the citizens of Aztec had to drive to Farmington if they wished to attend church. In 1952 two families decided they were not going to drive all the way into Farmington to go to church, they were going to start their own church in Aztec.

Both of the families had been attending the Church of Christ in Farmington, on Main Street across from the Citizens Bank and had become friends. The families, Jim and Opal Stiffler and boys, and Hubert and Flo Parker no longer thought it necessary to drive all the way to Farmington, so they started holding Sunday worship service in their homes. They alternated from the Stiffler home to the Parker home every other Sunday. Soon, other families started to worship with them. First were Cullen and June Mitchell, then Don and JoAnn Cooper and kids. Also around this time Wilbur E. (Gene) Reneau and his wife Alice moved to Farmington. Gene was working for Core Lab as a geologist. He had studied at ACC and had done some preaching as he went to school. Gene also was Jim Stiffler's nephew. So Gene and his family started to attend the service and soon he was the first designated preacher. By now the congregation was too big for anybody's home so a building was needed.

As always God provided for his children and the men of the church were able to make arrangements with the American Legion to use their hall on Sunday mornings. The American Legion Hall was located by Eubanks Drug store on Main Street. Part of the arrangement included that the hall had to be cleaned every Sunday morning since, Bingo was played in the hall on Saturday evenings. The task was quickly

assigned to the Stiffler boys, which they disliked but agreed to. The American Legion Hall had two rooms a small one in the back for the little kids and a larger room for the bigger kids and adults. Due to the economic prosperity the church continued to grow with Mr. and Mrs. Kelly and son Roland, Elaine Gilbreth, Mrs. Mace, Joe and Bonnie Dees and family, Joe and Edith Dooling, Otis and Bonnie Hardin and kids, and Plummer and Frances Lemley and son Steve joining the church family.

Services were held at the American Legion Hall through the winter of 1952-1953. Gene Reneau stayed on as the preacher.

During the winter of 1953-1954 Jim Stiffler, Hubert Parker, and Plummer Lemley were elected as trustees so that money could be borrowed, property bought, and our own building constructed. Once again God provided, a lot was purchased in the spring of 1954 and construction started on a building at 106 Simmons Rd. The building was completed by that summer and the first service was held in the beginning of June of 1954. After morning worship everyone went over to Hubert and Flo Parker's house for a potluck dinner.

With the unstable but booming economy families were constantly being transferred in and out of Aztec, causing the attendance to fluctuate but stayed at about seventy to eighty members each Sunday. With the changing economy many new preachers came to the church. After Gene Reneau came Dennis Smith, J B Harrington, Robert (Bob) Payne, Perry Zumwalt, Benny Whitehead, C.R. Turnbow, and Gary Standard, all who made the church a little more what it is today.

In 1973 the church decided to start the bus program to spread the word of God. The bus program