

Happy Birthday!



Our Wild and Precious Life

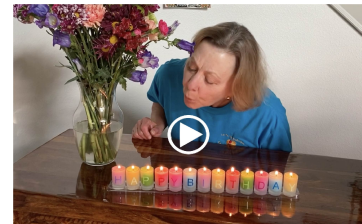


It stopped me in my tracks as I lugged my suitcase down the stairs to the guest bedroom. One after the other, each outlined in a simple black frame, Faith In Practice certificates. They covered the entire wall.

In the early years, Padre José would present each volunteer with a certificate of thanks at the end of each mission week, and we continued the tradition as Faith In Practice grew. Thousands upon thousands of certificates presented across the years in gratitude to each volunteer who offered their hands, their hearts, to the poor of Guatemala through Faith In Practice.

And, Jim and Mary Stempel, volunteering since 2002, had kept them all. Their own and those of their children who joined them,

Time to Celebrate



Our team leaders from across the country came together to wish us a Happy Birthday!

[Enjoy the celebration video](#)

A Birthday Gift



We received an amazing birthday gift—this weekend, all donations will be doubled! We may not be able to give a lot right now, but what if we each gave a little?

[Make a gift today](#)

**Happy Birthday
Tuba You!**

one by one, across the years. Certificates multiplying on the wall, just as Faith In Practice volunteers continued to multiply across the United States.

As I stood before their wall, speechless, I knew why they had done it. I knew that each certificate held thousands of hugs and tears. And laughter. So much laughter. Friendships forged, lives shaped, faiths deepened. I knew that there was a reason they had placed the certificates so closely one to the other. For each built upon the other, a touchstone of lives interwoven, a mosaic of a life built. All on the way to the guest bedroom.

Mary Oliver wrote, *“Tell me what you plan to do with your one wild and precious life.”* On that wall, I saw what the Stempels had done, were doing, with theirs. The very best of their wild and precious lives.

I know you may not have a wall in the den like the Stempels do, but I believe you have such a ‘wall’ inscribed on your heart. I believe this because I have seen you in Guatemala. I have heard you tell me how this mission has formed you, how you have been drawn into the heart of God through it, how the people of Guatemala have humbled and changed you forever. Changed those around you, because of this mission.

And I know it is inscribed on your hearts, because you and your stories are inscribed on mine. Intertwined forever in my life, because of how you have touched me through your love for others, for your love for each other. A wild and precious family it is, this Faith In Practice.

We are celebrating Faith In Practice’s Birthday on May 23rd. We are celebrating in the midst of a pandemic that is raising up in relief the things that truly matter in our lives. And you all are at the top of the list.

So, on this birthday, we are giving God thanks for each and every memory. For each and every way in which we have seen God’s love through this mission and through each of you. And, trusting that there are many more memories to be made. More



Team leader and board member Dr. Phil Johnson offers a celebratory serenade as only he can!

[Watch the video](#)

Friday Is T-Shirt Day!



Tomorrow is Faith In Practice T-Shirt Day! Put on your favorite team t-shirt and post your picture to our Facebook page! #HappyBirthdayFIP

[Visit our Facebook page](#)

Let Us Pray for You



We invite you to share your concerns and celebrations with our team who will pray over your requests daily.

Send your prayer requests to

certificates to be added to the Stempels' wall. More moments to be etched on your heart as you continue to tell others about what you have chosen to do with your one wild and precious life through Faith In Practice.

*From 12 volunteers to more than 2,500 volunteers. From 2,500 volunteers to thousands upon thousands of healing miracles.
Miracles because of each person who believed.*

*We may not be in Guatemala, but nothing can stop our return.
Each of us may not be able to give a great deal right now,
but we can each give a little.*

What if [we each gave \\$23](#) on the 23rd of May?

What countless miracles might God do with all of our little gifts as together we celebrate Faith In Practice's Birthday, as we tell the world what we plan to do with our wild and precious lives?

*The very first miracle: A surprising and unexpected matching commitment of \$23,000 in honor of our birthday.
That means that each of our gifts will be doubled.
God's blessings forever surprising. Forever true.*

Rev. Linda L. McCarty
President & CEO



Double your gift today

Photo of Katie Stempel, Antigua, March 2020

prayer@faithinpractice.org.

Join Us in Our Monthly Devotionals



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