

AMIGOS

INTERNACIONALES INCORPORATED

1967-2020



53 years of Disaster
Relief Aid and
Assistance

Our History....

In 1967, five friends (John La Noue, Jim Wren, Ed Nusko, Thomas Earl Williams, and Marlin Smith), discussed their passion to be actively involved in the Great Commission by helping those in dire need. That discussion that discussion birthed Amigos Internacionales Incorporated, a non-profit organization.

Initially, Amigos built and operated mobile medical-dental clinics in the Rio Grande and Big Bend areas of Texas, which were underserved by medical and dental professionals. Often the Amigos clinics were the only source of help for the people in those areas. A total of 17 clinics were built for this purpose. Jim also negotiated a "Letter of Agreement" with the government of British Honduras (now Belize) to allow Amigos physicians and dentists the same legal status, as if they were working for the government. This agreement is unique and is still in effect today.

Amigos received written commendations from national leaders, including **Vice President George Bush** in 1983, **"I am familiar with the good work of your private voluntary group in Belize, Amigos Internacionales, and hope your valuable contribution to this country continues."**



George Bush

March 31, 1993

Dear Dr. LaNoue:

Thank you for your warm letter about your experiences participating in the airlifts to Iraq and Peru. I was pleased to read about your current plans to help Bosnia, which is in such desperate need.

I am also grateful for your support during the past decades.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "G. Bush".

Dr. John L. LaNoue, Sr.
Director of Baptist Young Men
Texas Baptist Men
333 North Washington
Dallas, Texas 75246

Amigos Internacionales, Inc.

1967-

History

- 1967 - Medical and Dental Clinic on the Border
- 1968 - Hurricane Beulah
- 1969 - Mobile clinic from Bus
- 1970 - Tornados in Lubbock
- 1972 - First Mobile Disaster Unit built
- 1974 - Disaster Unit sent to Honduras
- 1985 - Earthquake in Mexico City
- 1990 - Built Airlift Kitchen
- 1991 - Relief efforts for Kurds in Iran
- 1997 - Corn Distribution in North Korea
- 2001 - Cleaning Apartment at Ground Zero- New York
- 2004 - Bam Earthquake in Iran
- 2005 - Cleaning Wells in Sri Lanka after Tsunami
- 2011 - Tsunami - Japan organizing Disaster Aid
- 2012-15 Various vehicles provided to other Non-Profits
- 2016 - Mobile Kitchen to Belize
- 2017-20 7.5 million meals a year to Guatemala – Water wells in Uganda
- 2019 - Orphan led children groups sponsored in schools
- 2020 - Purchased Betty and Ed Ryer Open Hands Academy in Gulu

This is by no means an exhaustive list, nor is it an effort to make viewers see our organization as anything more than we are, servants of the Most High God, ready to meet needs where people are and show the love and compassion of Christ.

This is an effort to show where Amigos and it's representatives have participated globally in Disaster Relief Efforts throughout our history. We believe our future will allow us to reach farther and do more to aid the needs of hurting people.

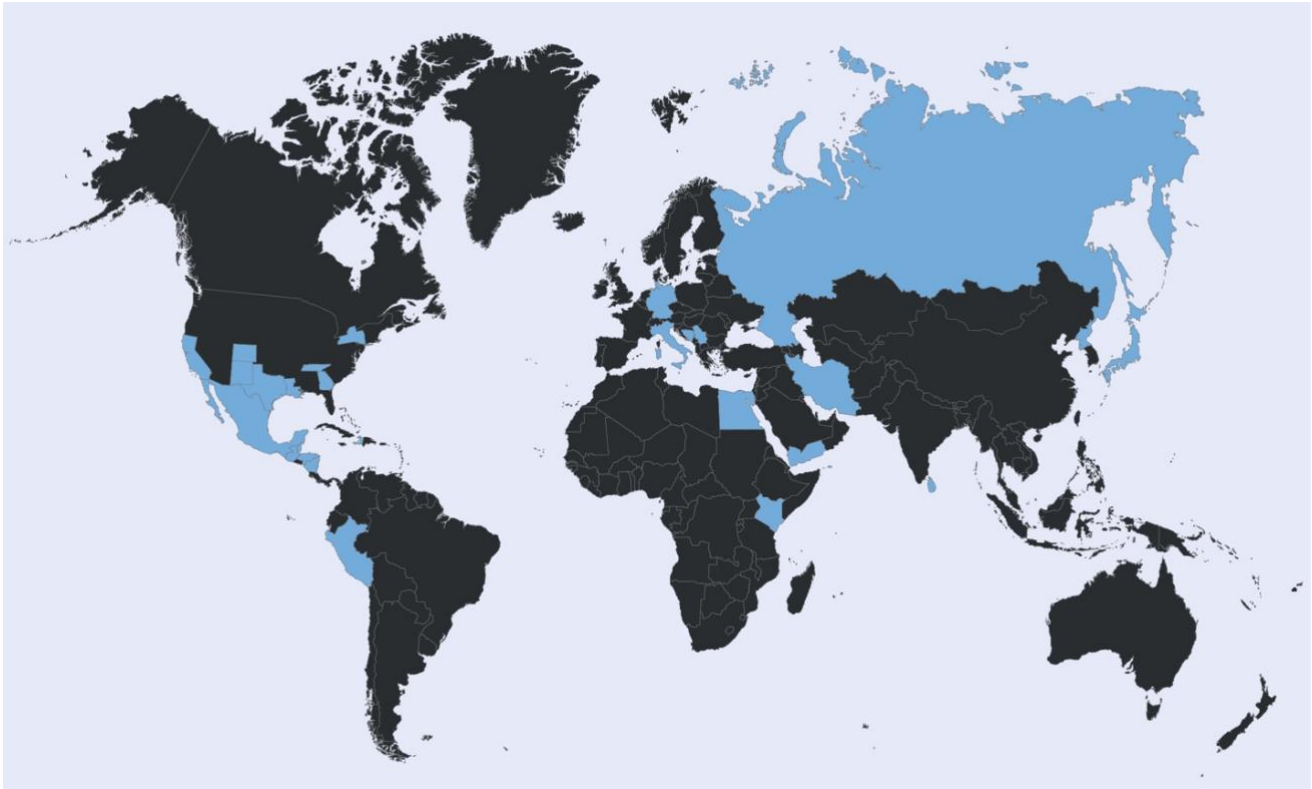
Thank you!



Michael E. Ryer
President – CEO

Activities Amigos has been involved in:

Countries and states we have served...



The early days... the feeding unit



Dr. John La Noue former President in Iran:



Texas Baptist Name Disaster Relief Building in his honor:



Food Security in the World



Since 2002, Amigos Internacionales Inc. has provided



over 1,144 Metric Tons (2,522,062 Pounds), over 57,200,000 meals to starving children and mothers around the world. This feeding effort has been in conjunction with Buckner's International and USAID. Through

Amigos hundreds of thousands of children and needy mothers have been fed each day. Amigos programs have fed families in Malawi, Peru, Belize, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala and Zambia.

Thank you for your help in making this effort continue.



Food packaged and ready to send overseas

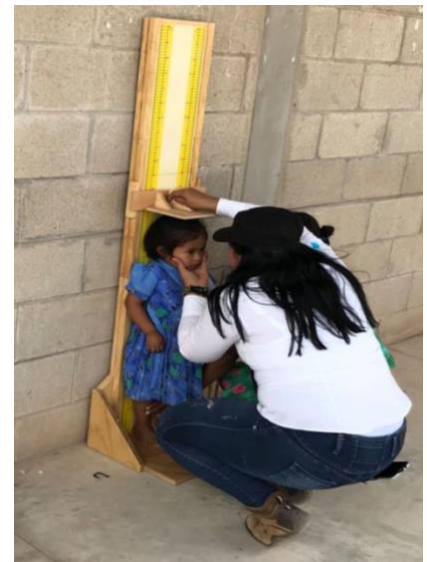


Guatemalan children receiving a much-needed meals and shoes

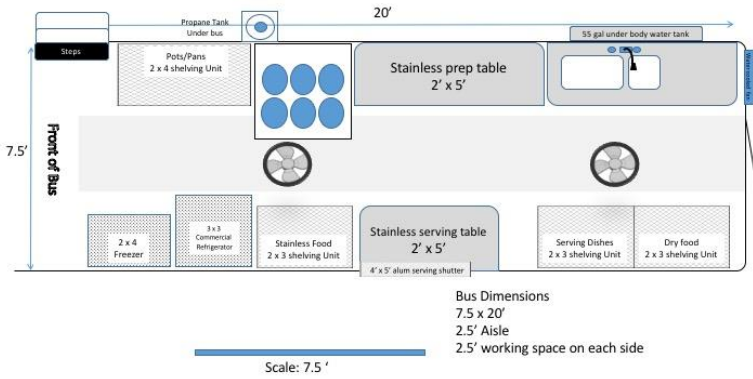


Our first container this year on its way to Guatemala. Up to 8 containers like this one are loaded with nourishing meals for hungry children!

Young girl is weighed and measured each month to ensure the food is helping her to grow!



Manna Bus in Belize:



Punta Gorda, on the southern tip of Belize is in need of desperate food security. Karol's Kitchen is providing that help through our Manna Bus!

The Women's Missionary Union of the Texas Baptist Convention



donated back to Amigos a bus they used for 3 years to provide help for women in sex trafficking and abused situations. We in turn with help from volunteers in Commerce and in Frost, Tx took that old yellow school bus and turned it into a fully equipped commercial kitchen.



The bus/kitchen was shipped to Punta Gorda, Belize where it is now in use as a kitchen, providing needed meals to the school children and those in need around the city. You can see below how excited Karol Smith, volunteer with Amigos is when the bus arrived. Karol's kitchen is still needing continued support for meals throughout the year.



Manna Bus clearing customs in Belize





Amigos initiative in Uganda has several moving pieces at this time...

Children:

Primary to our overall goal is to help some of the 2.5 million orphan children left alone due to war, HIV/AIDS, and family neglect. In Gulu, some 267 children have been identified as critically unable to attend school for the year. Uganda requires all children to attend school. However, schooling is not paid for by the government and many of these 267 will not be able to attend school.



Most of these 9-10-year old's are considered "orphan heads of households" simply meaning there are no adults in the house to raise them and take care of their essential needs. We are going to help. We are putting a plan in place to be able to take care of as many of these children as we can. Please watch and pray with us as we formulate these plans.

The Betty and Ed Ryer Open Hands Academy



In 2020, Amigos purchased 9 acres of land and a school bankrupted from the destruction caused by the Covid-19 shutdown. We are in the process of renovating the school, providing clean water, and an educational opportunity for children that would not have a school to attend. As of September, we have secured a fence, built a playground and provided windows and doors to the building. There are 8 acres of farmland to develop an agricultural farm for the community to share in and give a much-needed economic lift to the village there. We are working to develop this into a full Preschool – Secondary School



School children showing up to help build their new

School and children before Covid and shutdown



Water:

Through a partnership with Texas Baptist Men, Baptists of Uganda and Amigos, in 2019 we shipped a water drilling rig to the Arua area of North Western Uganda. This drilling rig will be able to provide much needed clean, pure water to



Board members are invited into the home to share a meal with an orphan family unit

some of the 1.6 million refugees pushed into Northern Uganda.

These families are fleeing ethnic cleansing and war from surrounding countries and arrive with little supplies and what can be provided for them is inadequate. Pray for God to provide for us, so we can provide for them.



Refugee camp outside Adjumani, Northern Uganda

Education

Amigos Board member Michael Mirau is a professional business coach with clients around the world. On our last trip, he offered his wisdom to a group of 130 businessmen and women in the Gulu area. Many businessmen and women lack the skills to successfully put a business plan together and to do a simple profit and loss chart. Our educational classes hope to give them a hand up to better their lives though economic and family lift. We are partnering with Jeremy Taliaferro, IMB missionary to this area to provide both business classes and food. Pray for Michael as we plan our next trip to help them.



Business class taught by Michael Mirau



IMB Missionary Jeremy Talifero teaches refugee pastors how to plant churches within their own refugee villages

In Sri Lanka we cleaned water wells that were overrun with salty sea water following the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004



Amigos work in North Korea:

Humanitarian team returns from North Korea

REPORT from CARE

Published on 20 Nov 1997

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NORTH KOREA FOOD CRISIS UPDATE

American relief experts monitored donated USAID food

The first team of American relief experts to spend three months in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea returned this week from monitoring food donated by the U.S. Government to combat a humanitarian crisis. Prior to the food's arrival, many thousands of North Koreans were subsisting on a mere 100 grams per day " the equivalent of a handful of grain. U.S. food assistance helped raise that level to 450 grams for over five million people.

During the U.S. team's three-month stay " longer than any U.S. delegation so far " they traveled extensively in 80 counties and 10 out of 12 provinces witnessing high levels of malnutrition and talking with people who have had to take extreme measures to survive.

"In spite of the challenges of restricted access, language and cultural barriers, the team came home with the strong conviction that there is enormous need and that we cannot simply walk away. We saw international aid making the difference between hunger and starvation and believe more food is needed to combat the growing crisis," said Mike Frank, leader of the Consortium team.

The NGO Consortium is a partnership of U.S. non-governmental agencies: Amigos Internacionales, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Mercy Corps International, and World Vision. The Consortium was formed to respond to the food crisis in North Korea.

Team Members are:

Michael Frank - Team Leader (Catholic Relief Services)
Tom R. Ewert (Mercy Corps International)
Dr. John L. LaNoue (Amigos Internacionales)
Daniel M. Roth (CARE)
John Yale (World Vision)

<http://reliefweb.int/report/democratic-peoples-republic-korea/humanitarian-team-returns-north-korea>

Sharing God's Love in Korea

By Ken Camp

John LaNoue glanced in his hotel room mirror, half a world away from his home in Lindale, Texas. Stroking his thick white beard, he realized it might be the only one in a country of 23 million people.

He thought about the tens of thousands of North Koreans walking along the country's roadsides who would see him through a car window as he would pass by them that day. And he realized that he probably would be the only American Christian many of them had ever seen.

"Dear God," he prayed, "let me see those people through Your eyes. And Father, help me to keep a smile on my face, and let the people see Jesus in my eyes."

LaNoue, who has directed disaster relief projects and other ministries for Texas Baptist Men for two decades, spent 85 days in North Korea from last August to November. He visited 10 of the nation's 12 provinces as part of a five-person team of representatives from non-governmental organizations in the U.S. The Americans were monitoring distribution of food provided by U.S. humanitarian organizations, including 130 tons supplied by Texas Baptists.

LaNoue went to North Korea under the auspices of Southern Baptists' International Mission Board and Amigos Internacionales, a Waco-based non-profit relief and development organization approved to work with the U.S. Agency for International Development. Other monitors represented CARE, World Vision, Mercy Corps and Catholic Relief Services.

They discovered that the grain shipments were reaching hungry people and saving lives. But unless food contributions from outside the country continue and food production within the country is accelerated, many more will die.

"The best asset the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has is its people," LaNoue said. "They are a proud, hard-working, industrious people. But in my opinion, many of them will die of hunger and hunger-related illnesses before the next harvest."

6 Texas Missions



He estimated that industrial areas in the country's mountainous provinces probably would run out of food by the end of January. Most of the agricultural areas will deplete food supplies by sometime in March.

Upon LaNoue's return to the U.S., at a debriefing before a Congressional committee, he learned that the relief work of non-governmental humanitarian organizations has been instrumental in bringing North Korea to a Dec. 9 peace summit in Geneva.

"We knew our gifts had the potential to save lives by preventing starvation," LaNoue said. "We had no idea they had the potential of helping bring people to the peace tables."

As LaNoue and the other monitors traveled throughout North Korea, from the Chinese border to the DMZ, they saw more than 1 million 110-pound bags of corn delivered. They visited public distribution centers where grain was rained on the basis of calories needed to perform specific jobs. They talked to people in schools, clinics and private homes.

One of the many questions LaNoue raised in every province was, "How many people here are too weak to work?"

In several instances, he discovered that before the corn arrived, the answer was 40 percent. After the corn arrived,



As North Koreans repair a dike destroyed by a typhoon, John LaNoue of Texas Baptist Men monitors shipments of food to disaster victims from Texas Baptists and other Americans.

the number dropped to 10 percent. In schools, they found that attendance before the corn delivery was at 30 percent. After the corn, it was 90 percent. In North Korea, all statistics normally are treated as state secrets and Americans are considered the North Koreans' "hundred year enemies." The people of that culture are reluctant to reveal any personal weakness to a stranger for fear of "losing face."

Even so, LaNoue asked page after page of penetrating questions. In every instance, he found that the donated food was spelling the difference between life and death. LaNoue talked with mothers and fathers who were supplementing their small allotment of grain with mountain vegetation — grass,



leaves, roots and stems of any non-poisonous plant. He discovered they were making flour from the cellulose husks of corn.

He also found that shortages extended beyond food to include the most basic medical supplies. Doctors perform surgery barterhanded because there are no rubber gloves. Patients agree to operations only under the most extreme circumstances, since there is no anesthesia.

LaNoue recalled visiting seven-year-old children in a classroom. In the class was one boy, small for his age, but otherwise showing no obvious signs of malnutrition. Immediately behind him was another boy gazing ahead with a vacant stare, his bowed legs and withered arms looking like brittle twigs ready to snap in the first high wind.

"You wonder why two children in the same class look so different, then you realize there is no medicine. One has

had an untreated case of dysentery, and the other hasn't. I asked a doctor if he could put some of the children on IVs. He said he could put them on saline solution, but he couldn't put them on glucose because there was no sugar to make it from," he said. "These children are literally one case of dysentery away from death."

Three months of daily exposure to horrendous suffering, long separation from family and a grueling travel schedule took its toll on LaNoue, who lost 40 pounds during the trip. But he maintained that it was the prayers of friends at home and the personal daily spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible reading and journaling that sustained him.

"Prayer has become my breath in this place," he wrote on one of the more than 150 pages of journal that he filled in 85 days. He often prayed for two to three hours a day, sometimes even ris-

ing at midnight and praying until daylight.

Those prayers bore fruit throughout his journey, according to LaNoue. At one point, the electric train on which he was traveling was left stranded due to one of the country's frequent power outages. The guide who was assigned to accompany him everywhere he went stalked through the railcar, fuming about how he hadn't seen his family for two months.

"If your God is so powerful, why don't you ask Him to turn the electricity back on so we can get home?" he asked, his voice dripping with sarcasm.

"Sure, I was just getting ready to pray. I'll do it right now," LaNoue calmly replied.

Within five minutes, the power was on and the train was moving. The guide walked over to LaNoue's bunk. Giving the visiting Texan a "high five," he grinned and shook his head.



Texas Baptist Men disaster relief coordinator John LaNoue helps distribute coats from Baptist donors to North Korean school children and meets with officials at one of the cooperative farms where Baptist agricultural volunteers have served.

Near the end of his three-month trip, LaNoue made contact with three fellow Texas Baptists, Yoo J. Yoon, past president of the Korean Baptist Fellowship of Texas and pastor of Glory Korean Church in Dallas; Bong Hee Han, TBM vice president for Korean Baptist Men and pastor of Green Acres Korean Church, Tyler; and Benjamin Kim, Asian church consultant with Dallas Baptist Association, spent six days in North Korea. Korean Texas Baptist churches gave about \$20,000 for famine relief, and their leaders were exploring avenues for future involvement.

"Your God moves fast," a North Korean official told LaNoue. "He must be a mighty God."

North Korea has changed a lot since his last visit two years ago, Yoon noted. "The country is much, much poorer than it was. But there is a bit more freedom. You can see it widening a little bit at a time."

Yoon saw evidence both of the nation's gradually increasing openness and its desperate poverty as he went jogging each morning during his most recent visit to North Korea. He saw people openly selling cigarettes, cooked sweet potatoes and small rice cakes on city streets — commercial practices previously unthinkable in totalitarian society founded on socialist principles.

He also witnessed something even more unthinkable a few years ago. "In Pyongyang, I saw two women going up to a trash pile just across the river. When they got there, they opened their backpacks and started collecting their vegetables, picking off the parts that were too brown to eat," he said.

Not long before the Korean Texas Baptists arrived, LaNoue learned about an urgent need for salt to replace what was lost when a typhoon in August destroyed most of the nation's reserves. Unless the North Koreans received salt in massive quantities, they would have no way to preserve cabbage for "kimchi," standard Korean fare that is often the only vegetable available during the harsh winter months.

Through a series of phone calls to the TBM office, LaNoue quickly was able to secure a \$60,000 pledge from the International Mission Board and TBM to buy salt. The Korean Texas Baptists, in turn, were able to negotiate a price reduction from vendors in China, making possible the purchase of an additional 100 tons of salt, bringing the total to 2400 metric tons (2640 U.S.).

"Your God moves fast," a North Korean official told LaNoue. "He must be a mighty God."



8 Texas Missions

The Ambulance we gave to assist the needy in Dallas....

The Baptist Standard™

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Home | News | Texas News | **God connects donated ambulance to ministry that needed it**



John LaNoue, president of Amigos Internacionales and veteran leader with Texas Baptist Men, delivers a donated ambulance to Tillie Burgin, executive director of Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex, which will use it as a mobile clinic to meet the medical needs of poor people in Arlington. (PHOTO/ Courtesy of Jim Burgin, Mission Arlington/Mission Metroplex)

God connects donated ambulance to ministry that needed it

December 4, 2014

By KEN CAMP / MANAGING EDITOR



Tsunami in Japan:

Dr. John La Noue, *Global Disaster Consultant for Amigos*, was one of the first on the scene following the 2011 Earthquake and ensuing Tsunami. He and others brought relief supplies as they helped put the initial disaster relief plan into place to assist the devastated people in Japan!



Unloading much needed supplies including nuclear test kits and Geiger counters!



Disaster beyond recognition met those that went first to outline the future humanitarian aid!



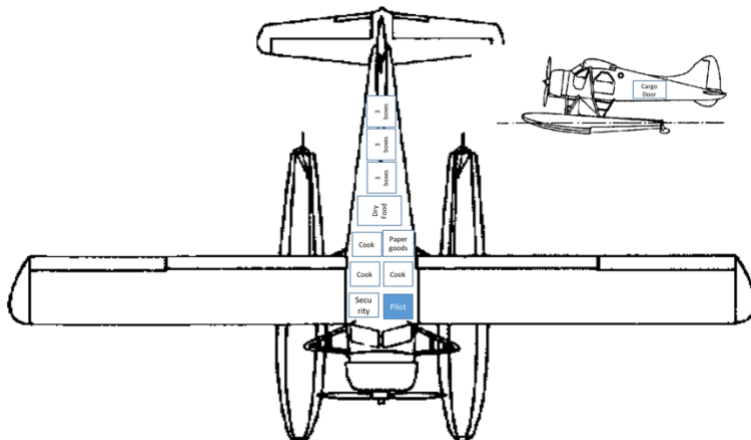
Our future project!



Can you imagine a time where immediately following a hurricane, a float plane equipped with a portable kitchen, trained medics, and supplies arrive within hours of the tragic event?

Amigos is dedicated to making this happen. With portable kitchen technology, our group of trained first responders, and our history of feeding the masses quickly and efficiently, we hope to build an organization that with the use of float planes can move into a disaster situation, provide immediate emergency medical care, while feeding those in need and providing shelter.

This is our dream! The task ahead is huge but we are up for the challenge. We are looking for volunteers and supplies. Join us as we seek to meet this great need in the world!



Board of Directors

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Michael E. Ryer: President-CEO Michael has spent the last 35 years serving churches in the Education, Administration and Music Ministry. Missions has always been a part of Michael's ministry, having been a part of or led mission endeavors in Canada, Belize, Guam, Israel and the Ukraine, Michael's passion is to see hurt needs met.</p> |
|  | <p>Dr. John La Noue: Past President, Founder, Director Dr. John as everyone calls him is the only living founder of Amigos Internacionales. Called the "Father of Disaster Relief" he not only began many of the programs of disaster relief, his fingerprint can be found around the globe from North Korea, Iran, Ground Zero NY and all points in between.</p> |
|  | <p>Jim Wren, III – Secretary/Director Jim is the Secretary and son of the first President of Amigos, Internacionales. Jim teaches law at Baylor Law School, in Waco, Texas and is active in all aspects of Non profit work. Jim added a M.A. in International Relations and teaches in Scotland each year.</p> |
|  | <p>Lee Harris – Director Lee is currently the District Judge in Hill County Court of Law in Hillsboro, Texas. He is President of the Blackland Income Growth Program and on a Statewide Texas AgriLife Committee. A certified Agriculture Science teacher, he brings a wealth of knowledge and commitment to Food Security to our Board</p> |
|  | <p>Bill Arnold – Aviation Division Director Bill currently serves as the President of the Texas Baptist Missions Foundation. Bill received a MA in Education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary and brings a wealth of knowledge to our board in the area of fundraising and aviation. Bill's talents are used especially in disaster reconnaissance and assessment.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Picture n/a</p> | <p>Andrew Szanto – Director Andrew currently lives in Lorena, Texas. Andrew brings a wealth of knowledge of business. He currently serves as the Chief Operations Officer at Waco Foot and Ankle, P.A. in Waco, Texas. Andrew has a Bachelor of Business Administration for the Hankamer School of Business, Baylor University, his emphasis is Entrepreneurship. Andrew's support for Shepherd's Heart Feeding and Food Program. We are excited to have Andrew with us!</p> |
|  | <p>Michael G. Mirau – Director As our newest member of our Board, Michael brings his expertise in business coaching and a compassion for those that are hurting to our Board Room. Michael has his MBA from Texas A & M Commerce, and is the Chairman of Amore, International, a nonprofit dedicated to providing housing along the border below San Diego, California. Michael is a member of the Gazelle's International and is listed among the top 100 business coaches in the USA.</p> |

Our purpose is three-fold

1. Do as Jesus did.
2. Meet People's needs where they are
3. Share the love of God as we go.

Our mission:

Amigos Internacionales, Inc. was founded in 1967 to provide emergency services and disaster relief help throughout the world. Amigos, primary focus is facilitating the meeting of needs of people around the globe. We accomplish this through limited partnerships and individuals personally volunteering to help, peoples' needs are met and lives are bettered because of the caring people at Amigos.

AMIGOS
INTERNACIONALES INCORPORATED