

◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

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Link International
Ministries



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Reaching Mexico and
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Dear friends and family, Greetings and love to each of you! Recently I was reading the scripture in Acts and began thinking about the "seasons" of our lives and the different moments we have lived this year.

It says in *Acts 14:17 (NIV)* ¹⁷ *Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.*"

When we came home from Cuba after ministering in January and February—a time of joy and energy and harvest, we returned to a season of great difficulty and mourning: a broken refrigerator, a leaky pipe debt upwards of \$14,000 pesos (about \$800 dls) for the two months affected. Sadness of heart as the two young men that had been living with us and whom had been placed in the charge of a very responsible and loving couple decided to rebel; taking and selling drugs, bringing guests home to spend the night – all the time disregarding any direction and guidance – thus leaving us no choice other than to ask them to leave... A theft in the youth room of equipment bought... And then on a very personal note, three deaths in our family... Sadness has wanted to push through more often than not.

With the summer months come summer blessings – in the form of people and service projects, bringing joy to our hearts in the midst of it all.

Proverbs 15:30 (NIV) *Light in a messenger's eyes brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones.*



Joy to the heart #1: Sophia Toomb! This young lady came into our home on May 11th to learn Spanish and to

serve for the summer. She came with very rudimentary language skills and left at the beginning of August speaking fluidly (she loves to talk and speaks very fast in both languages!) It was like a different person was speaking! She made many friends with our youth, helped with work projects and car-washes for raising camper fee funds, was an assistant counselor at youth camp out at Agua Viva, led Bible verse learning during a VBS at an indigenous mission church and bubbled her way into everyone's hearts! We love you Sophia!

Joy to the heart #2: Medical missions! In June we hosted BayMarin from the San Francisco area. Each day a group of dentists and dental students goes out to bless others with the healing touch of dentistry! This year I was very touched by two patients who were cared for. They were both patients with special needs.

A young lady has come to the last several clinics for a cleaning, but as soon as even a mirror was put in her mouth she started to gag. I watched with such tenderness as two female dentists worked with her and got her in a position where her head laid against one of their laps, and she felt secure and held, and for more than an hour they worked on her mouth.

Another young man with Down's Syndrome was seen. He needed so much

work done on his mouth. They first cleaned his teeth and then filled several cavities. They worked for hours. They worked through lunch... and into the afternoon. The dentists told me that so many times people with special needs are not treated because it is harder to get them to sit still or to trust.

Other things done that week that I want to mention are the painting of a banner along the park wall above





Casa de Pan – BEAUTIFUL! They also led two VBS programs – one at one of our mission churches’ and another at our home church!



The month of July brings the St. Barnabas | Mayo Clinic | RLC & Friends Mexico Medical Mission who bring the tender touch of health! We see cases of all types; people that live in rural areas and work the fields – with a complete set of problems specific to their lifestyle. We also see people in the inner-city areas who live on the streets and struggle with all types of addictions. This year we share two stories! Pablo was very touched by the case of a man in his 40’s who had been deported from the U.S. and because he had no family and no place to go was also living on the streets. He didn’t have addictions but he had found himself living in the company of people who did. He felt so alone.

When you are seen at the clinic, you stop at several stations: triage, referred doctor, pharmacy, and then the



commissary to receive things such as shoes, clothing items, toiletries... From the triage table on, he couldn’t stop crying. He was so touched that people had come to give health care for free and as he talked to the triage nurse and then was later referred to Pablo for prayer and counsel, he shared that it meant so much to know that he wasn’t alone in the world. Pablo gave him the phone number for our half-way house so that he could stay there temporarily – having a roof and hot meals - until he was able to get on his feet. Please continue to pray for Hector as he wades through this life-change and for the kindness of Jesus to touch him daily with his needed provision.

Last summer, Isaias’ mother found out that a free medical clinic from America was coming to their remote village outside Ensenada for one day, and she knew she needed to take her son there to find out what was wrong.

It was there that the clinic medical team equipped with a portable ultrasound found the problem: a large hole in his heart known to them as an atrial septal defect. This hole has grown over his short



life, causing the right side of his heart to be dangerously enlarged.

The team immediately knew that only skilled heart surgery would save Isaias’ life and that it needed to happen as soon as possible. Yet the surgery would never be possible where he lives and his family would never be able to afford it. But the miracle that brought Isaias to this clinic that one hot day in July, would not end there. We were notified mid-July of this year that the gift of heart surgery at the Mayo Clinic Rochester has been granted to Isaias!

Isaias, Bertha (his Mom) and Cindy Carter (Co-Director of the Mexico Medical Mission) will fly to Minnesota for Isaias’ life-saving heart surgery. He will have prelim appointments on Wed/Thurs this week and then surgery is scheduled with Dr. Said on Friday, August 25.

We are dancing with joy! Please pray with us for their travels, for the beautiful family that will be hosting them, the many that are involved in all the details and for the miracle of this surgery. They will be in Minnesota for a month for his recovery. We will keep you posted!

Joy to the heart #3: Service Projects and Evangelism. New Song Church from Washington came and loved on people by making meals, leading Bible studies for our men and women, and cutting hair. They hosted a carne asada fiesta with an afternoon conference for our men at the rehab center. They purchased materials and worked hard to finish the detail work in our prayer room off the sanctuary.



Taft Avenue Community Church of Orange came and did a VBS and work projects at one of our Indigenous mission churches in Colonet. It was a very small group and so 10 of our youth came alongside to serve and learn! Each evening the leadership from the U.S. team would train our teens, then they would separate into groups and each plan



and work on their participation for the next day. It was a “Science Camp” and (for those of you who know our youth), Esteban was the story teller, Chuy the mad-scientist, and Sophia taught the Bible verse. The other youth helped with organized sports and the science project – everything connecting back into the lesson!



They also worked hard painting the building and the stairway. They poured a cement slab for a walkway and a laundry area and fixed drywall in several areas that had been damaged!

Valley Community Church from Pleasanton came and their youth and ours played together on the beach and enjoyed a hot dog roast and bonfire with singing and sharing. The next day they came and gave a “face lift” to our church, painting our youth room, making fire breaks and cleaning the weeds and overgrowth at the playground so the kids could play in safety!



The finishing touch of our summer was an evangelistic outreach at the community soccer field.

Grace Church of Orange came and during the day, cooked and served a group of 150 pastors from Ensenada, allowing our leadership to also attend. Then in the afternoon down on the field we had a 3-team match tournament followed by a hot dog feast complete with watermelon, chips, homemade cookies...mmm. There were some happy faces! There was a clown making balloon figures and then we ended the night showing the movie “Victor”. “Victor” is a true story about broken dreams, drugs, gang violence...all things that are prevalent here in our neighborhood.



Pablo closed the night giving testimony of his life before Jesus. The next day there were 3 people in church that hadn’t been before that had been at the field for the event... Please pray for us as follow-up is done.

So much activity. So many lives touched. Testimony stands giving witness of that. He has provided and our hearts are full of joy.

“Yet he has not left himself without testimony: He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons; he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy.”

Thank you for enjoying the stories of what God has done this summer. Thank you for also

standing with us when times are tough. We would ask you to pray for some things as we close...

- For our family as we grieve.
- For Hector as he adjusts to life here.
- For Isaias’ heart surgery on Aug 25
- For the continued follow-up with both people and projects that were begun this summer!
- For Pastor Ramon Aguilar (one of our mission church pastors) who had three heart attacks and underwent surgery last month. He is recuperating and it will be six months until he is able to work again. We ask that you would also pray for the finances to pay off the debts incurred for his surgery.
- For Pablo as he begins teaching Discipleship at the Ministry Training Institute at Agua Viva. His first class is September 1st!
- For Martha as she begins teaching another year of ESL to adults!

To each of you who were a part of this summer in person or through your prayers and gifts,

MUCHAS GRACIAS
Muchas Gracias



Pablo & Martha

