

# ◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

August 2018



Link International  
Ministries



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Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and  
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Luke 21:29-30 (NLT)

<sup>29</sup> Then he gave them this illustration: "Notice the fig tree, or any other tree. <sup>30</sup> When the leaves come out, you know without being told that summer is near.

When we looked at our calendar before summer arrived this year, it was exploding with the green buds of fruit to come! Growing up in the U.S., summer was characterized by HEAT, Independence Day, lazy summer days, school vacation and lemonade sales! Here in Mexico the characteristics are not so different! Kids are out of school, tourists are charging through our city, the beaches are packed because of the heat, VBS programs are going on in churches, American groups are in town doing all types of ministry! We are privileged to be a part of the bustle and God is the CENTER of every activity we are involved in!

**Summer family visits!** The first week of July, our niece Olivia came from Idaho to visit! She was here at the same time as Mischa (our granddaughter) and our son Jacob dropped in for a couple of days to spend time with his sweet cousin!



While she was here she really wanted to serve others, so a small group of our youth and all of us hopped in the car and went over to Javier's house for a cleaning day! The older boys and Pablo gave him a much-needed bath and we washed linens and scrubbed the floor, kitchen, organized, etc. It was a great day that puts life right into perspective...



## Summer Growth...

During this summer, we will celebrate with 5 different Quinceañeras of which Pablo is officiating the ceremony for 3! Young teen girls who are growing up and blossoming into young ladies! Pablo's teaching at these ceremonies is from 1 Timothy 4:12 "Don't let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity." He is privileged to give the challenge!



## Summer Loving and Learning...

We are presently giving pre-marital counseling to one couple here locally and are doing a shortened version with a couple that is long-distance. It is an incredible opportunity ALWAYS to walk with a couple as they are solidifying their commitment and learning important concepts BEFORE entering into marriage.

## Summer Groups and Youth

**Activities...** Our sister church from the U.S. "New Song" came to visit in the end of June and ministered to hearts and homes. Hair was cut and styled, backs and bodies were adjusted by a chiropractor, the men of our rehab centers came and attended a 2-day men's conference followed by baptisms at the ocean.



ST. BARNABAS | MAYO CLINIC | RLC & FRIENDS MEXICO MEDICAL MISSION blessed Ensenada with their service of love to the poorer communities of Ensenada for the 24<sup>th</sup> year! Pablo worked in triage (patient intake) and I worked with the dental team! Mischa was with us this year and served in the commissary organizing and putting together donations and translating for the patients as they came for their bag

of blessings! The last day she even stuck her head in dentistry and decided she wanted to be an assistant!



The medical team is headed up by Casey Caldwell and Cindy Carter and Cindy shares:

*Our theme for devotions and direction this year was **LOVE DOES.***

*This was exemplified throughout the week in ways both big and small.*



*We had patients share that we had "just what they needed" and when docs wanted to address more, response was "I am fine; I have given all to God and He is providing for me." Love does that - it fills in the gaps and gives us opportunity to be deeply thankful even amidst need.*

*We had patients needing surgical resources that we could not provide - but His Love provides and we are already moving forward on the first surgery arrangement with a new connection in Ensenada.*



L to R—Abdiel's father Alberto, Abdiel, Tamar & Isaias

*We had our three "heart patients" together for the first time. Tamar, Isaias and Abdiel shared a look at their open-heart surgery scars and found a common bond and joy with one another. A foundation in Arizona*

*formed by parents whose child also needed open-heart surgery at birth sent money with me to bless each of our heart patients with follow-up care and nutrition -- because that is what Love does...it gives forward and backward.*



*We had tremendous inspiration from our Mexico team - from dentists and their assistants to hair dresses treating lice epidemic and translators giving voice to many patients and their caregivers and the team was especially moved by the level of sacrifice provided by the young couple cleaning bathrooms for the clinic all day with no complaint or weary faces. Love sacrifices.*

*We had multiple team members carrying heavy burdens into the trip that have shared with me this weekend of the amazing way that the Lord used fellow team members as well as the patients served to speak directly into their lives.*



*That's what Love Does...it makes our big medical/commissary team into a Biblical "one body" that comes together in action and the foot is no more*



*important than the elbow, the nose as important as the finger...glad we aren't just one big eye but a collective of individuals and talents willing to "do" for His glory. **LOVE DOES.***

The following week we were in Colonet, about 2 ½ hours south of Ensenada. Our church in the U.S. (Taft Avenue Community Church) sponsored our youth group from La Gran Comision to go on a



mission trip to serve the children and ministry here. We worked ahead of time and put together a VBS program and the youth all worked hard with the children and with work projects. We invited three

of the youth from Colonet to also be in leadership and they did a wonderful job integrating with our team. The program went excellently, and the children



were so responsive to the teaching, the interaction with our



youth and to the Lord's truths that were taught! The youth are growing and being stretched and children are being challenged to love Jesus!

In the end of July, Valley Community Church, came and hosted a bonfire-fellowship at the beach for our youth. On Friday they worked with our youth to paint the exterior of Casa de Pan as well as a dorm room. They cleaned a fire break behind the church, took food baskets to three of our families and evangelized in the surrounding neighborhood. It was an amazing two days of ministry and ALL were blessed.



Please enjoy a few more pictures on the next page and a small news flash about Cuba in 2019!



Pablo & Martha



Several youth are taking music lessons and are beginning to dive into ministry!



Family



Two of Pablo's teams played in the finals and came in first and third place!



Our couples small group—fellowshipping before learning together!



Last day of ESL classes for the school year! Playing games in ENGLISH!!

## MUCHAS GRACIAS

*Muchas Gracias*

**Gracias... for all you do—for encouraging, for lifting us up in prayer, for your faithful monthly support! Together We Serve!**

*Looking to the future—asking for your partnership and prayers!*

*In March or April 2019 we will again be heading off to Cuba for a Disciple Training Conference. Following the conference, Pablo and I will stay on to do a pastoral and leadership retreat teaching how to give pre-marital counseling and how to care for and counsel couples in crisis; while also ministering to the leaders in attendance. We need to raise a good chunk more than usual as we will be paying for the hosting of the retreat including their housing, food and their transportation in addition to our travel and visas....*

*Please pray with us for all the details. We are waiting for answers to our questions from the leadership in Cuba.*

