

◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

Mexican Medical Mission 2015



Link International
Ministries



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Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and
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This year's Medical Mission to Ensenada marked Mayo Clinic / St Barnabas / RLC & Friends 20th year anniversary serving in Ensenada.

It was an amazing week of service and we are so privileged to be a part of their team! 20 years ago, the first team consisted of 7 doctors, nurses and support staff. This year, 2015 there were 93!

Pablo works as a translator at the patient triage station for the doctors. Martha works the triage desk for dentistry!

The stats for this year are impressive! The medical team saw and treated 644 patients.

Optometry saw 485, dispensing glasses to each patient as well as sunglasses and protective work glasses to many many others that weren't seen for corrective lenses. Dentistry treated 238 patients! The pharmacy dispensed medications for the majority of the medical patients—and ALL patients received vitamins and a dispensary package which

included a Bible, t-shirt, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, beans & rice and many received shoes. WOW! So exciting!

Even more impressive than numbers is the knowledge that each one of these patients has a name and a story. Our hearts were touched



time after time as we talked to people and listened to their needs, physically touched them — through taking blood

pressure and blood sugar tests, and directed them to the right places to be seen. We would like to share just a few of those stories with you.

Day 2 we were at a new site where a children's day camp was being held. For most of the day the children were getting



Make-shift bathing area

check ups and teeth cleanings! Near the end of the day, Julie, one of our

"Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day."

- Sally Koch

gynecologists had a sweet patient named Valentina who mentioned that she so wished that the 11 homebound people that she has a burden for and tries to take a bit of a meal to each day could reach the clinic. Julie asked me if there was any way - I asked the two families on our team with minivans if this would be possible, and Mike Carter

and Dan Caldwell took Valentina as their navigator and went and picked up the 11 homebound - most of whom were elderly - so they could receive care.

One gentleman was bathed as his body was covered with lice. One gentleman's feet were washed and toenails clipped as well as dressings being applied to terrible sores on his legs. Eye exams were administered and glasses fitted... Clean blankets were wrapped around their shoulders.

I (Martha) was over in dentistry and was unaware of all that was happening. I had a break and walked over to see how the medical team

was doing and felt as if I was stepping onto holy ground.

A new definition of washing another's feet.



Dr. Francisco Espinoza, a local doctor, also giving his time and expertise



Susan Smith, making a "house call" because her patient couldn't climb stairs!



The dental team was made up of 8 dentists and 7 assistants—all local, who have been spurred on by Dr. Victor Añorve who has given his service for 20 years. What a wonderful gift to pass on to others!



Pablo and Martha at their respective triage tables!



Our pediatrician referred a 10-year old patient to Dr. Maxwell, our surgeon. She was born with a sixth-digit on each hand. Because we had a quality ultrasound, Dr. M was able to determine that the digits

were made of cartilage and could be removed in our makeshift clinic setting. During the surgery, Dr. Jay learned that it was actually the patients birthday...so he commissioned Laura and Else to put together a gift - and our dear Teddy ran to the store to create a special girlie gift bag -- and when the patient came out of the curtain with small bandages on each hand...the whole medical team sang Happy Birthday and presented her with her gifts! It was learned that she had suffered much teasing and lack of confidence because of her hands. We pray that this intervention will bring a new season of encouragement and blessing to this child.

There are a couple of cases that are in the process of receiving follow-up. A 15 year old named Isaias



came to the clinic to get a check up on what the doctors had told him was a heart murmur. When being examined, he was given an echocardiogram. It was found that he has a VERY serious heart condition and he has about a year to live if it is left un-treated. The wheels have been set in motion and Mary from our church is working with Isaias' mother to get a passport and special emergency medical visa so that he can be taken to Arizona for surgery. There is already a Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon that has taken the case and now details are in the works for all that a surgery like this entail...a hospital that will donate it's facility and related costs to the patient....etc. Please pray with us for this need.



Another patient is actually a tiny member of our church! His name is Abdiel. He is 11 months old and the two great vessels of his heart are transposed. He and his mama are travelling to Mexico City in two weeks for a follow-up appt to see if he can receive the urgently needed surgery here in Mexico. If not, then steps will be taken to get him surgical care in Rochester, MN. Please also pray for this precious child and for open doors to life. Pray for his parents Alberto and Jessica.

...thank you again for standing behind us as we serve! May God's blessings be upon you.



Pablo & Martha



The pharmaceutical team! (Missed you terribly Mary & Virginia)



Laina Quiñones translating at the triage station!



Edgar Ochoa teaching Patient Health—topics such as Nutrition, Cardiac Health and Diabetes to those in the waiting area.



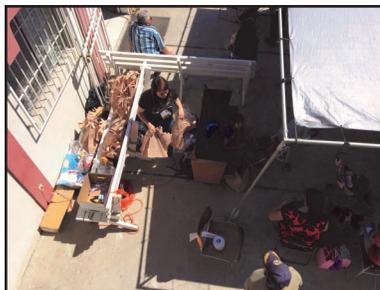
Keeping the children laughing and focused on Jesus!



Two of our nieces, Brittney left photo and Maritza, center of right photo translating at the triage table!



Line for the commissary in Ojos Negros!



Laura Maldonado working hard keeping things organized in the commissary



Letting off a little steam with a squirt from the water syringe in the middle of a HOT day!

Note of thanks to Mary Volberding for providing the statistics of this weeks' endeavor ~ and to Cindy Carter for your help in lending light on the details of each story ~ and to so many for providing pictures! Most of all, we thank God for allowing us to be a part of this amazing team and for the many people of Ensenada that are touched with His hands of mercy through them.