

# ◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

February 2020

Link International  
Ministries



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Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and  
the Nations for Jesus

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Dear friends and family,

*Isaiah 61:1-2, 7 (NLT)  
Good News for the Oppressed*

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon  
me, for the Lord has anointed me to  
bring good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to comfort the  
brokenhearted and to proclaim that  
captives will be released and prisoners  
will be freed.*

*He has sent me to tell those who mourn  
that the time of the  
Lord's favor has come*

*...Instead of shame and dishonor, you  
will enjoy a double share of honor. You  
will possess a double portion of  
prosperity in your land, and everlasting  
joy will be yours.*

Last night at church, a gentleman that is the head of the prison ministry shared from this passage. This is the scripture that Jesus read (told in Luke 4:16-22), in the synagogue of Nazareth, His hometown. He opened the scroll to Isaiah 61 - perhaps an assigned reading, perhaps chosen by Him - and read...

I was once again impacted so deeply by the calling to the people that we serve... those whose lives have been shattered by sin and shame so that it becomes a vicious circle that ONLY God's grace can pull them out of.

Hearing the testimonies last night reminded me of the two times last year (in June & December) that the dental ministry accompanied their team and went into the prison to "physically mend" what has been damaged. We have heard several of the stories of those that are in the prison and my heart breaks... my stomach turns... but as they receive physical touch that brings healing, God also works in their hearts.



...a woman who killed her own daughter, scorned by the whole community - outside prison and inside as well.

...a man who killed his mother and niece under the influence of drugs who doesn't remember anything about that night and will spend the rest of his life in prison...in shackles, the majority of the time, because of his violent outbursts.

It is beyond my brain's limits to hear details...but God sees the brokenness. God sees the shame. And beyond my comprehension, he forgives... them, me, broken humanity.

Noé is a young man who grew up in our church. Many of you know and love him. He has struggled with drugs for the last several years and has gone from a joyful, helpful, kind person to a withdrawn, and damaged one.



His family lives right next to the room that I use for my ESL classes and Pablo uses for men's and youth meetings. We see him often. Thin and ashamed... hiding from us whenever we are around.

A few of weeks ago, he had been taken to a rehab center and to escape, he slit himself with a razor blade from the wrist all the way up his arm. When they were getting in the car to take him to the hospital, he ran... He ran all the way home. His mother came and got us, and we took him to the Red Cross where they stitched him up. He looked like a skeleton

and our hearts broke. He begged us to not send him back to the rehab center. He promised Pablo he would stick close – would go to the men's meetings and church services and would NOT take drugs. He wanted to be free and knew Jesus was the only way.

Pray for Noé. He has remained faithful to his promise and has been clean for the last few weeks. He is like glue to Pablo and Pastor Ruben. His living situation is not ideal. He shares an upstairs apartment with his brother who is actively doing and selling drugs. Pray for his dependence on Jesus because that is the ONLY way that the chains can be broken.

*Isaiah 61:7 "...Instead of shame and dishonor, you will enjoy a double share of honor. You will possess a double portion of prosperity in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours."*

Pray with us for:

- Those who are physically captive in prison that can only find freedom in Jesus.
- Noé who is fighting for freedom from drugs. ONLY in Jesus' strength can he be free.

Joy Notes:

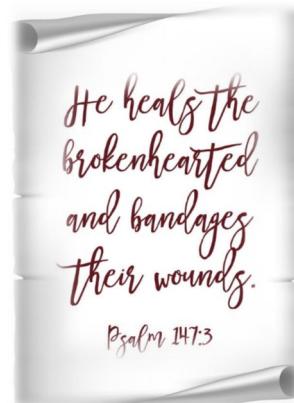
- Married couples in our small group are growing and finding joy in the restoration that God is doing in their relationships.



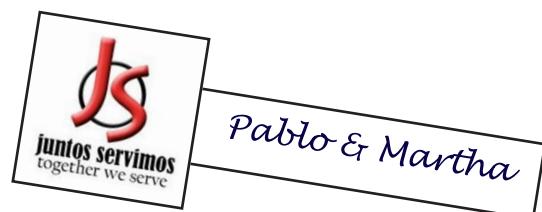
- On March 6<sup>th</sup>, Martha's 4<sup>th</sup> level ESL students will graduate, having completed the full course of study. They are fully bi-lingual and will be taking a test for certification on February 19<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first graduating class that has completed all four levels!

- We head off to Cuba in the end of March with our partnering ministry "Discipler Training International". We will co-coordinate the 14th Discipleship Conference in the province of Mayabeque, just outside of Havana, preceded by a pre-conference with our Cuban team of facilitators. This team-building time prepares us for the conference, as well as equips them for their own ministries. Pablo and I will spend the two weeks after the DTI conference traveling to three different churches to present three-day workshops. One day will be to bring refreshment and guidance

to all the married couples in the church. The other two days will be to train church leadership on how to give pre-marital counseling, as well as counseling for couples in crisis.



*"...You will possess a double portion of prosperity in your land, and everlasting joy will be yours."* This is our prayer. Thank you for standing behind us in ministry. We love you.



If you would like to support the ministry to Cuba, we need to raise \$2,500.00 for the ministry to couples and our travel expenses.

To sponsor a Cuban pastor for the Discipler Training conference, the cost per pastor is \$30 which covers the 5-day conference, housing, food and the discipleship manual.

You can donate via check, or credit card: 100% of the proceeds will go to the Mission Trip to Cuba and the conferences held there. Make checks payable to:

Link International Ministries  
PO Box 4092  
Orange, CA 92863



To pay by credit card, click the link below which will take you to the secure PayPal website for processing. \*Do not put the word "Cuba" when donating. You can put "Mission Trip" in the subject line. Thank you.

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