

# ◆ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

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Link International Ministries



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Ensenada Mexico

Reaching Mexico and  
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Dear friends and family, greetings from our house to yours. We are excited to update you on the many happenings here in our corner of the world. Thank you for standing with us in prayer and financial support.

I was reading the Bible recently and came across this verse in 1 John 4:11-12 (NLT) *Dear friends, since God loved us that much, we surely ought to love each other. No one has ever seen God. But if we love each other, God lives in us, and his love is brought to full expression in us. (my emphasis)*

As I read this passage, I asked myself – “How did Jesus express his love here on the earth in human form?” He served. He loved. He taught. He lived a life of integrity and called others to do the same... among so many other things. God lives in us and wants us to live a life of full expression of that love. In a commentary by Grant Richison, he says: “We see God best in the act of love. Love will reach its final destination or end when it reaches out to others. We see God’s love best in Jesus’ sacrifice and our sacrificial love. This sacrificial love makes God visible.” That is our challenge as Christians! **To make God visible!**

*Making God Visible on the soccer field:*



In the end of October, one of Pablo's teams won first place in the area tournament!

The entire league has changed over the years as Pablo has become the President of the league and works with all the coaches and referees. There used to be all out brawls on the field during the finals. However now there is a sense of unity in leadership and mutual respect, and it filters down into the teams and their behavior on and off the field. It was a great night, and the celebration was informal and enjoyed by all – pizza and sodas on the field with lots of laughter!



*Making God Visible as we pass along leadership skills:*



Javier and Lupita have been working with us now for several years. When they came to La Gran Comisión they were dealing with deep marital problems. They went through crisis counseling with us and have since continued with our marriage group.

They have come alongside Pablo and I in teaching, in working with the youth and basically being our right hands for events and when we travel! In October we had a service where different people who had been serving faithfully for many years were anointed for ministry by Pastor Ruben and Pablo. Javier was anointed and ordained as an associate pastor that day. We give glory to God for their healed marriage and home and thank God for their faithful leadership at La Gran Comisión.



*Making God Visible in marriages:*

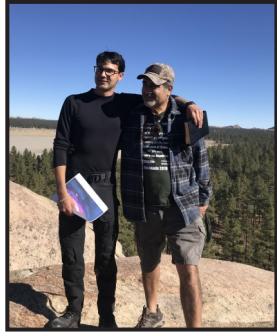
We would like to introduce you to Angel and Rafaela. They were married in March 2021. In October they were already dealing with some very difficult marriage problems. Angel has been the pastor of the Kumiay Christian church for several years and now that they have married, they are in ministry together. Rafaela is indigenous Kumiay and Angel is a mestizo Mexican. They are from the same country but miles apart culturally. It has been such a privilege to counsel them and watch them learn and put Biblical principles, **that cross all cultural boundaries**, into practice.

They have both shared that in addition to taking our “pre-marital” class and building a strong foundation for a life-long, Christ-centered marriage - they want to begin teaching those concepts to others in their church community. We just finished our final class and with it came leader guides for them to “pass it on”.



### Making God Visible to the youth:

In late November we took the youth to Laguna Hansen for a day retreat. It is a place like no other here in the Baja! There are pine trees and boulders. It snows in the winter. It is only a couple of hours away, but it feels like you have entered another world! We rented a van and took three other vehicles and were packed full! There were games, nature hikes, a campfire, singing and learning about God and nature in the perfect setting.



Something that was very much a highlight that day is that our son, Jacob and Pastor Ruben's daughter, Cindy were the speakers at the three talks as well as leading the activities. It is a blessing to watch our adult kids maturing and growing in Christ and allowing God to use them in leadership.

### Making God Visible by serving others:

In 2020 money was donated from Valley Community Church in Pleasanton for Cheque and his family. He is one of Pablo's soccer players. Because of the pandemic and property problems, the project was never able to be continued! Early this year a small local team lent a hand and dug and poured the foundation. The last couple of weeks, they have been able to put in a retaining wall, level out the entire property and get it ready for the next step!



### Making God Visible as we allow our hands to be instruments of care:



In the beginning of March, our dear friends from Cuba, Luis and Yanaisy, came to visit. They were with us for 10 days. While here they spoke at our church during the Sunday service and with our Men's, Marriage, and Youth Groups. We had two Zoom meetings with our leadership from "Discipler Training International" to strategize on how to continue the discipler training during these years that we can't travel to them. It was very

productive and Luis and Yanaisy traveled home with a plan of action!

They shared with us before coming that they were so tired and that these last couple of years have been so difficult. Our intention while they were here was to lift their burdens, feed them some wonderful Mexican food (they were especially excited for this aspect of their trip), and to give them rest. We were able to send 9 pairs of prescription glasses and 4 pairs of readers back with them for different people on the island – as they can visit the eye doctor to get the Rx but then there is no possibility to get them made.

The trip was more than we could have hoped for. God provided the finances every step of the way and they returned home rested, knowing how loved they are by their Mexican church family here, and ready to face the many challenges ahead. If all goes as planned, we hope to travel to them in September. Please pray with us for every detail.



*Thank you for making God visible to us with your notes of encouragement, your gifts of prayer and your finances. We love you.*

