

◊ The Garcia Gazette

Reaching Mexico and the Nations for Jesus

May 2024

Link International
Ministries



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church "La Gran Comisión" in
Ensenada Mexico

*Reaching Mexico and
the Nations for Jesus*

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Dear friends and family,

We are so excited to share a snippet of what been happening in the Garcia household and ministry here in Mexico!

One of the themes that keeps coming up whether in personal conversations, or in our annual missionary reviews, is the question: "Is your training in this area transferable? Are your trainees able to train others? Are they doing so"? In other words – **are we reproducing spiritually?**



As you know, one of our ministry passions is healthy marriages. We do that through a small group and individual counseling (which includes those already married as well as pre-marital couples).

We began doing pre-marital counseling in 1998 when our pastor's daughter was to be married! Our pastor asked us if we would do it for them and we really had no idea where to start! We began praying and went to the bible bookstore and looked for resources and that began one of the most exciting steps we have taken! We have given premarital counseling, individually, to over 40 couples. We continue to take courses and seek resources for this changing world we live in... The sessions are very scripturally centered AND THAT is unchanging and gives a solid place to stand! Walking with couples before they get married is certainly an exciting moment in life but can be quite intense as they are getting to see things they may not have seen – or having to confront things they thought might be easier... What a privilege!

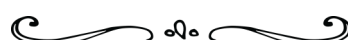
We began counseling couples from our church and somehow the word has spread! We have found ourselves counseling people that are in leadership / ministry at other churches in the city and it has been so exciting to especially equip these couples because we know that we aren't just planting seeds in them and their marriage – but in their churches as they go on to possibly use what they have been given with others.

Recently one of those couples came to us and asked if we would be willing to share our materials with them. They are a bicultural couple and friends of theirs – also bicultural – upon watching their marriage, asked if they would consider giving them counseling!

I asked them today if they had followed through with the couple and here was their answer:

"Yes!! We're on class #11 with them! It's gone really well!! They're a Mexican/Canadian couple, so we've been able to talk through some cultural issues and it's also been a good reminder for [us] to go through the material again. I think we've both enjoyed it and it's made us both realize just how much of the advice you gave us has been put into practice in our marriage and has saved us lots of heartache. [We] both see the value in it and we are so grateful to have gone through it with you and Pablo and now get to pass along some of that wisdom ❤️"

Yay God!



Our home has been one of refuge this year. Our foster daughter, Yanet had her baby in November and he was born with some physical problems. We have been helping her with the many details and appointments. This week he had a heart operation and is recovering and doing great! With this done, he will be stable to be able to address his other needs. We are so thankful for your prayers for baby Gael!



A young Cuban man, whom we love dearly, escaped and made the journey from Nicaragua to Mexico and lived with us for four months while he got on his feet. We are friends with his family and he grew up as a pastor's kid. Our time with him was pretty intense as far as helping him to navigate life in

another culture and guiding him spiritually and emotionally through the turmoil of all that he experienced and seeing freedoms that he had never experienced before. Please pray for Manuel* as he continues to acclimate and deal with the loss of family... He has chosen to walk away from the Lord, which breaks our hearts – but He knows that we are an anchor for him when he needs. Scripture says in 1 Corinthians 3:6 *“I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow”*. These words remind us of the privilege and responsibility we have to plant seeds of faith in the lives of the people we meet as well as the people in our own homes and families. However, what happens with those seeds is not in our control. God controls that. We stand on that truth. Please pray for Manuel*

Ben and Jeanelle are good. They both just got new jobs - Ben a promotion and moved to a new site and they are both loving it. The grandkids are beautiful! We get to have them this week and then again during the summer!



Jake returned from Cuba mid-March and got a job. Elianet flew to Nicaragua today and has an appointment at the Mexican Consulate there on Friday the 24th. There will be a 10 day wait while paperwork is being approved and completed for her to be able to fly into Mexico. We covet your prayers in every step of this process.

Martha's mom has been here these last months and recently her sister came to visit! Super special moments!



Upcoming Summer ministry:
July 14-19 St. Barnabas Mexico Medical Mission (Med/Dent/Vision clinics in 4 sites throughout the city)



July 22-26 Valley Community Church (Home building project and youth event)

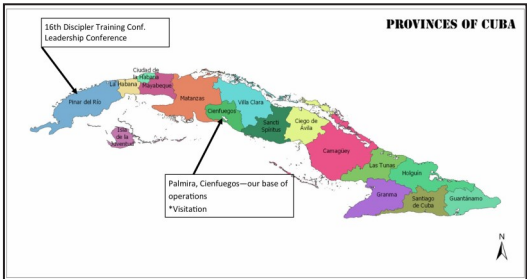


Thank you for standing with us with your prayers and financial gifts. Truly together we serve. Blessings and love to each one...



Pablo & Martha

Sept 5-11 Florida for final prep before Cuba trip
Sept 12–Oct 1 Cuba Discipleship and Leadership ministry in the province of Pinar del Rio



* not his real name