

MISSION STATEMENT

"The Mission of Mexican Medical Ministries is to Bring Healing and Hope to the People of Mexico."

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Mexican Medical Ministries 2008 Annual Report



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Photo: Children participating in a Vacation Bible School in Palenque, Chiapas during a health fair.

Building for Eternity

From The President

2008 was a year of many transitions for Mexican Medical. We began the year by moving to a new building. This move really identified Mexican Medical as less of a Cadillac and more of an F-150 ministry. It also proved to be great financial provision from God, as well as a protection, because our former building would have cost us thousands in repairs and new property taxes. No one knew what an economic turn 2009 would bring, and God protected us from the great expenses in advance.

We had change in our personnel, too, with two staff missionaries and three board members retiring. Our family gained one new board member, five new missionary appointees, and a baby. The list of medical volunteers increased by 25 % and eight new church groups joined us in our short-term teams.

A very tough transition occurring in 2008 was the issue of security. We have never suffered any threat or attacks on any of our mission staff. The border towns, however, became engaged in an all out drug war. We have witnessed and heard of horrible murders and crimes. Mid-year, even one evangelical pastor was kidnapped for ransom.

It caused us to reevaluate and recommit to the call of serving in Mexico. It has caused us to become wiser, in all our activities. Like Christ instructed his disciples, we travel now in pairs with a deeper sense of purpose, watching and praying as we go. The danger has indeed increased, but so has the need to supply the good news of Jesus Christ.

For me the most important gauge for a successful year isn't the number of volunteers or the gross receipts of donations. At the end of every year, I ask, "Have people come to know Christ as their Savior?" And, "Did the churches in Mexico grow because of our efforts?" First Samuel teaches the consequences of Saul's behavior when he didn't do things God's way and didn't wait on God's timing. I believe there is evidence that God has blessed Mexican Medical and there is fruit from the work because we are committed to waiting on the Lord and committed to biblical decision-making.

We have received reports that churches are, in fact, growing, spiritually and numerically. We have heard testimonies that our participation in their church's life did strengthen and encourage them in their pursuit of increasing God's kingdom. Our pursuit of bringing healing and hope to Mexico has provided great reward and blessing for all of us that serve God with Mexican Medical.



Pastor Steve Crews
President



Building for Eternity IN TECATE with PASTOR MARCELINO de la TORRE



An inspiring story can have a profound effect on those who hear it. Such is the life story of Pastor Marcelino de la Torre. To see this man's kind face and to hear his story is to witness the glorious work of God.

Pastor Marcelino was born in the state of Jalisco, which is on the mainland part of Mexico. His father passed away when he was very young. His mother was unable to raise her son, so Marcelino was raised by other family members and for a time he lived on the streets.

During these years, Marcelino's life was filled with hate towards his mother because of all the suffering he was going through. At 17 he came face-to-face with the love of God, through the life of an American missionary. This missionary reached out and through his actions shared God's love with him. Marcelino responded to this love by putting his faith in Jesus.

Over the next few years, Marcelino's faith in God grew and matured, and the hatred in his heart turned into joy and peace. God had changed his life. Feeling called to the ministry, Marcelino went to seminary in Tecate. While there, God used him to start a church in 1975 and he pastored the church until 2000. He started building a house, but God led him away before it could be completed.



His family has prayed that this house would be completed and that Pastor Marcelino could move back to Tecate and minister in this city of 120,000 people.

In the summer of 2008, God brought together a team of 19 from seven different churches in three different states. During that week the team built 25 trusses! The team was able to finish all the trusses needed, but were unable to get them up on the house during the week. However, God brought friends of Pastor Marcelino from the Tecate area to come the following Saturday and put the trusses in place on the house. Praise the Lord!

The team from Mexican Medical Ministries was a catalyst in helping Pastor Marcelino get his roof done on his house. He is a man called by God that will touch lives in Tecate for all of eternity. This team helped build for eternity in the city of Tecate.

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Consuelo Lopez



Prayer is a big part of the work of building for eternity. Sometimes we don't feel our prayers are heard, let alone answered. But, in working with people in Mexico, as in any other ministry, it is often very apparent that God has answered prayer.

Consuelo Lopez is one of those persons in whose experience we see the power of God through prayer. She is deaf and had cataracts. Her life has been quite challenging. Consuelo's 10-year-old daughter had been leading her around every day.

In May, Mexican Medical missionary Theresa Lewis heard of a visiting eye doctor who was coming to an orphanage in Col. Vicente Guerrero. She and Consuelo drove the 40 – minute drive north to see the doctor. But unfortunately the doctor was completely booked up by the time they arrived.

Disappointed, they left, but were told the doctor would return in July. In July they returned and arrived at 5:00 AM, but there were 43 patients ahead of them. So they prayed and waited that they might get in that day.

God answered their prayer! After waiting most of the day, Consuelo was seen by the doctor. The doctor examined her and approved her for eye surgery. The day after her surgery, she returned to have her eye patch taken off. When the doctor first took off the patch, Consuelo didn't respond, and then all of a sudden she hugged Theresa tightly. Theresa signed to Consuelo to see if she could see her, and she, nodded her head yes!

As Theresa made signs to her across the room, she mimicked every one. Consuelo cried and lifted her hand in praise to God. She walked out of the clinic on her own for the first time, and as they drove down the road, she waved at everyone passing by. It was wonderful to watch her with her children, whose faces she could clearly see.

Now when she sees them, her whole face lights up. She faithfully takes her children with her to church each Sunday. This surgery has truly changed so much about Consuelo's life! Praise God for His answered prayers for those who are sick!

REHABILITATION

Nueva Vida Center

Helping to rebuild the lives of men for God's glory is the ministry and goal of the Nueva Vida Rehab Center. Nueva Vida means "new life," and the rehab center's purpose is to help men rebuild their lives from a drug dependency lifestyle through applying Biblical principles. This ministry has seen men's lives change under the power of God's Word and is located close to the Mexican Medical ministry site of the Clínica La Esperanza.

Peace Baptist Church of Vancouver, BC, brought a team during the Christmas holidays to serve at La Esperanza. Some of their work projects that week included working at the Nueva Vida Rehab Center. The team helped pour the floors for the dining room and for a room that is to be used for drug detox.

Also during the week, the team participated in a program that honored the men from two rehab centers. They participated in a special Christmas service for these men to help encourage them while they are away from their families.

Peace Baptist Church gave up some of their time during the Christmas holidays to help with the building of the facilities at the Nueva Vida Rehab Center. This investment of time and money will help in the rebuilding of men's lives and will have an impact for years of time and for eternity.



Helping Mexican churches develop a heart for missions is one of the things that missionaries Gary & Pam Sheveland work on with local churches near Cabo San Lucas. Centro de Fe Church has taken its members on mission trips in Mexico. One of those trips was north of Cabo San Lucas in the small communities of San Miguel de Comondú and San José de Comondú.

In 1708 the Jesuit priests founded a church in these communities, so there is a long history of a Catholic presence. Other than that, there is not much of a Christian influence in this part of Baja California. One of the members of the Centro de Fe Church had visited this area and had the opportunity to introduce Jesus to a lady in town.

The team from the Centro de Fe Church was able to share Christ with the people in these two communities. The team had prepared several dramas and puppet shows, and some of the members were clowns for the children. At the end of their presentations, the youth pastor would ask the people for three minutes of their time to share with them. Then the whole team, even the children, would go into the crowd and share their faith.

HEART FOR MISSIONS

Centro de Fe Church



Helping the local church in Mexico develop a vision for the lost is going to make an impact for generations to come. Building for eternity means strengthening the local church in this and other areas of spiritual maturity.

GIVING HOPE

Santa Rosalía State Prison



began to feel the peace of God. Don was able to explain to the director why they were there: "Our plan is to introduce God into their lives, because only He can really change their hearts."

The team came prepared to show God's love through providing the prisoners with medical and dental services. At the eye examination station, they checked vision and gave away many pairs of glasses as well as gospels of John.

At some point, these prisoners were asked if they would like prayer. After they had finished going through the different medical stations they would be offered a Bible and other Bible study materials. Many of them gladly accepted these materials.

The opportunity of giving hope to people who seemingly have no hope is one of the joys of ministry for Mexican Medical missionaries Don & Lorraine Karsgaard. Based in Loreto where they work with local churches, they were given the opportunity to go to the state prison in Santa Rosalía, a medium security prison designed for 105 men, but currently housing 152 men.

As they arrived that day, the team was a little apprehensive, but as they went into the prison trusting the Lord, they quickly

The Lord definitely was at work through this team at this prison! Presently, there is a group of about 30 men who've come to know the Lord in the prison. They meet for Bible study and prayer each day, and have "church services" five days a week.

Don was told at the end of the day that the prison would be open to them any time they would like to come back. He opens doors to give hope to people that have no hope. God's Kingdom is being established and being built even within the walls of a prison.

Reporting HEALTH FAIRS TOUCH MANY PEOPLE



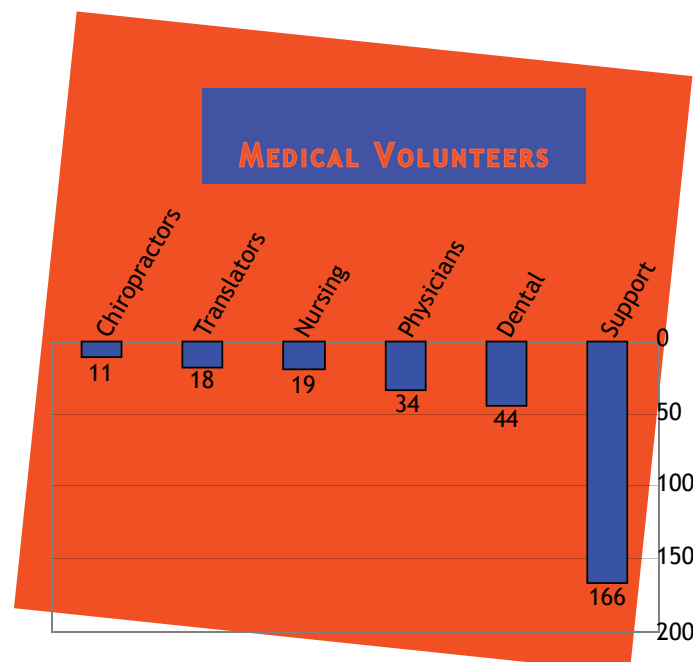
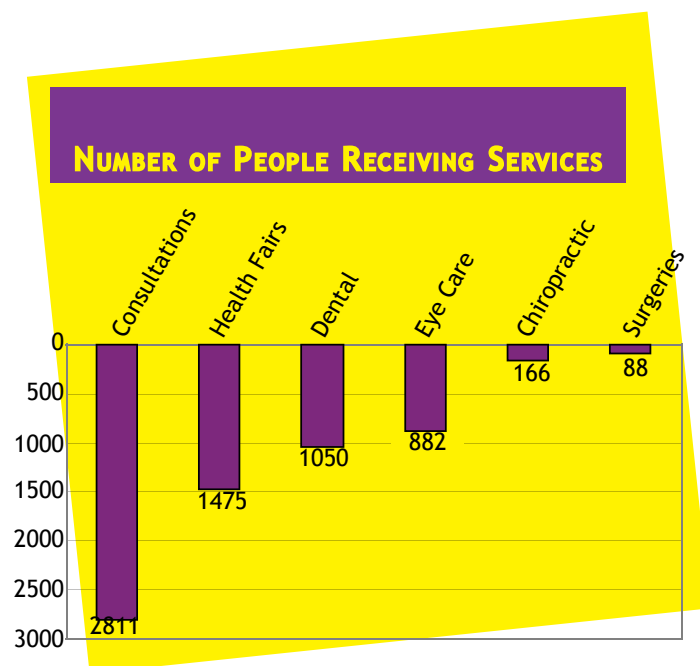
One of the greatest opportunities, Mexican Medical Ministries has been given is the ability to bring our medical/dental volunteers and "health fairs" into the public school to care for the children and the adults in their community. We have been asked to go to remote areas in Baja where the people there feel forgotten and unimportant.

On October 22nd we traveled to a school 20 miles east of Tijuana with 11 women doctors and dentists in San Diego for the Women in Christian Medical and Dental Association conference. We served over 140 adults who had the opportunity to have their vital signs checked, meet with one of the many specialists for skin disorders, women's issues, and respiratory problems.

The women also had the opportunity to attend a class on breast and cervical cancer prevention and have their questions answered in an informal time with the Gynecologist. Her willingness to listen to their concerns and show compassion was so important to the ladies and the health of their families in the future.

There were counselors from the local church, available to help with emotional and spiritual needs too. Two pediatricians screened over 350 children for heart and lungs problems, exposing some of them to their first doctor visit ever. The doctors found some cases that they were able to refer to one of the specialists. The children also had a class by the dentist in dental care and received a new toothbrush and toothpaste.

Reporting 2008 MEDICAL TEAMS



Reporting GOD BLESSED 2008 IN THIS WAY

Expenditures

94% Program Services

5% General And Administration

1% Fundraising



Volunteers

Mexican Medical was blessed by many people that sacrificed in so many ways to touch people spiritual and physically in Mexico.

There was a total 637 individuals who participated in 2008. This represented an 8% increase in the number of teams that came in 2008. There were 10 states and 2 provinces represented.

In addition to the medical and caravan teams, Mexican Medical had 400+ volunteers that visited the Gabriel House.

There were 700+ people that prayed and made a first time commitment to Jesus Christ.

