



Mexican Medical Ministries 2010 Annual Report



From the President

About a year ago, our founder was in attendance at one of our board meetings, and he was asked a question: “What did the ‘medical’ in Mexican Medical mean?” Over the last 49 years, we have built hospitals and clinics, performed thousands of surgeries while training national doctors, created mobile dental clinics, and flown to remote communities all over Baja California. In recent years, we have been placing a special emphasis on community-based health care and education, so the question was a good one because we wanted to know if we were still “on mission” with the founder’s original vision.

In his soft-spoken manner, he replied that the name was limited but that ‘medical’ for him was all-encompassing. From the start he had one goal: to extend the love of Jesus to those in need, whatever type of need that might be. He took great delight in hearing that we now distribute over 3,000 handmade stocking caps every year to children during the chilliest months of winter. From providing cold medicine to filling teeth and performing life-saving surgeries, each need met is fulfilling our call in Mexico and performing our mission to reach the lost for Jesus Christ.

During 2010, we gave over 5,600 medical consultations. We were able to work with over 900 volunteers to instruct countless children in health care and Biblical truths at over 50 different events. The donations we received allowed us to distribute thousands of reading glasses and check the blood sugar of almost every adult that was cared for. Mexican Medical supports three different Bible schools, where last year two dozen students graduated and are now prepared to serve in local churches. One of our precious ministries cares for 34 profoundly disabled children. Because of generous donations, they are able to care for the children in such a way that the wife of the

president of Mexico declared it the finest orphanage in Baja California.

It has been a fruitful year and the missionary staff of Mexican Medical considers it a great privilege to serve in Mexico. It is an even greater honor to be able to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ through word and deed.



Pastor Steve Crews,
President



Palenque Hospital Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Dr. César Tamez writes:



Thank you for being with us in Palenque, Chiapas, Mexico. Yes, you have been there, whether through supporting us with prayer or finances, or by physically traveling to that remote area of the Chiapan jungle to join us in blessing the indigenous Ch'ol, Tzeltal, and Tzotzil peoples, and the mestizo community, as well.

In July, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the ministry of Palenque's Clínica El Buen Pastor ('The Good Shepherd Clinic'). I can hardly believe that we were there the day it opened in July of 1985, when we dedicated the small project to the Lord. At that time, we could never have imagined that someday the hospital would be hosting three or four surgical teams a year, each time performing 30 to 40 operations within in a four- or five-day period.

Yet, that is exactly what Mexican Medical is doing, and I rejoice at being able to be part of this precious ministry that so richly blesses my Mexican brothers and sisters in Chiapas.

Our anniversary trip, June 27 to July 5, was filled with patients, surgeries, news of restored health, and testimonies of salvation resulting from Pastor Diego sharing from God's Word in the hospital's waiting areas each morning. Most beautiful of all was being able to sense that the Spirit of God was rejoicing with us and pleased with the perseverance and dedication that had been required of us over the years.

This is a privilege that each one of you who support us financially or in prayer can share in as well, because together we are able to use healthcare as a tool to put God's love into action wherever he sends us. May the everloving Almighty's grace pour over each one of us as we continue living for Him, through Him, and with Him.

Weekender Teams

Health Fair at a New Church in Loreto

Loreto missionaries Don & Lorraine Karsgaard coordinate health fairs nearly every month, leading teams of volunteers from the US/Canada and Mexico, and working in partnership with local churches in communities throughout southern Baja.

They were greatly encouraged to hold their final health fair of 2010 at a church in Loreto which had only been established in the previous April. Located at the west edge of the growing city, the building is made from old salvaged pallets, with the inside lined with cardboard, that has been then painted. The ceiling or roof is simply a conglomeration of salvaged plastic and old tarps. (This is meant to be a temporary building; they recently began building a more permanent structure of cement block, which they hope to complete within the next couple of years.)

The health fair was a great outreach for this small church. Over the course of the weekend, 43 dental patients and 45 medical patients were attended to,



60 people received glasses, at least 16 prayed to receive Christ, and many others received counseling and prayer. Please pray for Pastor Ricardo and his wife Chayito as they shepherd this growing flock.

Construction

Home Destroyed by Storm Is Rebuilt

In January, a major storm destroyed several bridges on the only highway that runs the length of Baja California, Mexico. This same storm also leveled numerous simply-constructed structures that many in the Baja call homes. In San Vicente, the storm's high winds destroyed one such modest home, constructed of four garage doors, a dirt floor, and a tarp for a roof, and no running water or electricity.

Pastor José of the Nazarene church in San Vicente asked our missionaries, Dave & Lynne Johnson, to consider partnering with the church to help reestablish a livable home for this family of five from their congregation. Being wise with the Lord's resources, Pastor José and Dave confirmed that the family had legal rights to the property before the construction could begin. Once that was determined, local church members began pouring cement for the foundation and floor of the two-room 16' x 24' home. Dave directed a mission team from Sutherlin Family Church (Sutherlin, OR) to erect the walls of the home and begin the construction of the trusses for the roof. The following week, a team from Caronport Community Church (Caronport, SK, Canada) installed the trusses and completed the roof.

Dave solicited his son and nephew to come down and assist the church with insulating, sheet-rocking, and texturing the home.



In June, a mission team from Bethel Baptist Church (Aumsville, OR) was able to participate with Pastor José, the local church community, and Dave & Lynne in a ceremony dedicating the home to the Lord and celebrating the move-in.

God's love that enabled Dave & Lynne to leave their home in the States many years ago to go serve in San Vicente is the same love that has permeated the relationships they've developed there, has built trust locally and stimulated people from three nations (Canada, USA and Mexico) to join together to give of their resources, skills and time to be a part of God's testimony of provision for this young family in San Vicente, Mexico.

Migrant Camps

Helping a Malnourished Infant

La Esperanza missionary Theresa Lewis writes:

One day this spring, we were in a migrant camp with a church group from Montana to show a Christian film. Before the film started, we were presenting mothers with baby blankets made by some ladies from the team's church. During this time, we visited a new mother named Candy and her son, Miguel Ángel. This four-month-old baby was the size of a newborn. Fortunately, two of the women that were with me were nurses, so they were able to recognize from the baby's shrill cries, small size, and underdeveloped body that he was malnourished. At the end of film ministry, Candy brought him into the church so the nurses could examine him in the light. The group also gathered around the baby to pray for him.

We knew Miguel Ángel's life was in jeopardy, but we didn't know where to go for help. Thankfully, Pastor

Rafael Jr. was able to get us in contact with the local director of DIF (a government social services agency). As soon as she heard Miguel Ángel's case, she gave us a document that would give him direct admittance to the emergency room and that would cover all of the expenses of a hospital stay—hallelujah!

Candy had tried to get help for her son before, but after a long, expensive bus ride, and a lengthy wait in the hospital, she had been told that her baby could not be seen in that hospital. They told her she had to go to another hospital across town. By then, it was too late in the day, and she returned home with no help for her baby. So, when we took them, it was a great relief for Candy to see her son attended to immediately after we walked in the hospital doors.

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Candy and Miguel Ángel were admitted for a two-week stay so the baby could put on more weight and Candy could learn about feeding schedules and other ways to help his condition improve. My husband Buky and I were so happy when we went that afternoon to tell the father, Aarón, about his wife and child. We told him about visiting hours and arranged a time when we would pick him up the next day to go see them.

As we were leaving, we looked in the rearview mirror and were surprised see Aarón running after our van. When we stopped, he came up to us and said it would be better if we brought his wife and baby back home right then. We tried to explain to him the importance of his son staying in the hospital, but he wouldn't change his mind. After seeing God open up so many doors for baby Miguel, I couldn't even fathom that the one person in the way of him receiving the care he needed would be his own father. It was heartbreaking.

Disappointed, we took him to the hospital, but to our relief we found out that he would not be able to take his baby or wife out without permission from the doctor. Afterwards, we spent a lot of time praying that God would change Aarón's heart. We were encouraged because we knew others were praying for us as well. And sure enough, God did change his heart. The next day when we picked him up to visit his wife and baby, he was happy and smiling. He apologized over and over for his behavior. Many people in the migrant camps here are wary of hospitals, often because of bad experiences in the past or stories that they have heard from others, and he explained to us that he was scared for his family because he hadn't been separated from them before.

During visiting hours, it was so sweet to catch glimpses of him with his family. As Candy proudly looked on while he held Miguel in his arms, I could tell how much Aarón cared for his baby. By the end of the two weeks, Miguel was bigger and healthier, and Candy had a newfound confidence in caring for her son. Today, Miguel Ángel is a much happier baby and he looks much healthier! He has gone back for a few doctor's appointments and the pediatrician is quite pleased with his progress.



Through this experience, Buky and Pastor Rafael also had the opportunity to talk with the parents more about a relationship with Jesus, and they are now regularly attending the church in their community. Because they do not know how to read, I have been working on making copies of the New Testament for them on audio cassette. I delivered the first tape, and Aarón tested it out right away on his tape player that runs on a car battery. I can't wait to get them the rest of the cassettes. We're so thankful to God for Miguel Ángel's good health and for the opportunity to share Christ's love with this family!



Dental Teams

Caring For A Young Dental Patient

Dr. David Manary, a dentist from North Platte, NE, has faithfully served on short-term trips to several Mexican Medical sites over the years. After his December 2010 trip, he shared about one case that particularly stood out:

“During my trip to La Esperanza, I had so many memorable experiences that I could not recount them all. But one story that comes to mind is of a 10-year-old boy who had likely had an infection in his baby teeth, but the baby teeth had not been removed when needed. This led to the upper front part of his mouth having an unusually thick, tough gum tissue which prevented his permanent incisors from coming in as expected around age 6 or 7.

“An x-ray revealed that the roots of the four impacted permanent incisors were nearly formed. This meant that additional delays in their coming in would lead to a permanent problem. Complicated orthodontic treatment (braces) might solve this, but the boy’s family would almost certainly lack the access and funds that would be required. The patient and his mother knew this, so they were excited to learn of the possibility that the teeth might erupt by themselves if the thick, tough gum tissue were opened and reshaped to expose the teeth. The young man was very cooperative and I was able to uncover the hidden teeth. I saw him each of the next two days and observed that the teeth were beginning to break through.”

Missionary Steve Monks observes, “Over the years as I’ve watched dentists work their craft and use their skill to heal and clean people’s teeth, I’ve often thought of how it is like God carving our character, cleaning areas of sin and decay, and removing parts which are causing pain. But that day, in that young boy, I saw how I want to be in the hands of God as He works on my own heart and character: calmly trusting in God to do what’s necessary and best. Sure, there might be temporary pain, but in the long term there will be healing and health.”



Dr. Manary continues, “Both the mother and the boy thanked me no less than 10 times each, both in English and Spanish. My motivation for serving God and the Mexican people is not because of the rewards that come. Even so, I have already received a reward much greater than the effort I spent!

“If you are considering a mission trip, I hope you do it! There are countless opportunities for lay people and for health professionals to serve God. The people at Mexican Medical Ministries will do an outstanding job of helping you make your dream of serving in the mission field come true. Don’t miss your chance to have one of the most rewarding and life-changing experiences of your life.”

GOD BLESSED 2010 IN THIS WAY

Volunteers

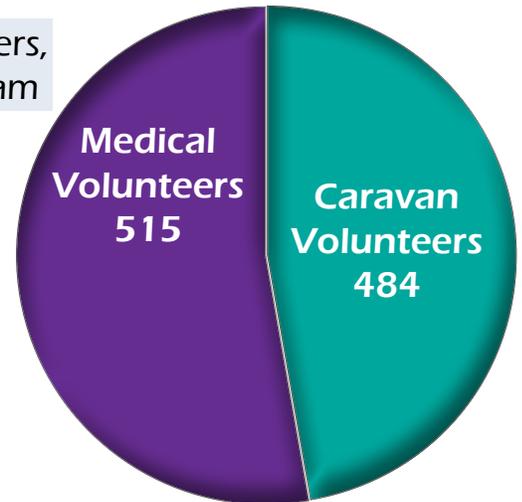
Mexican Medical was blessed by many people that sacrificed in so many ways to touch people spiritual and physically in Mexico.

A total of 999 individuals participated in caravan or medical teams with MexMed in 2010 (in addition to the over 400 volunteers who visited the Gabriel House during the year).

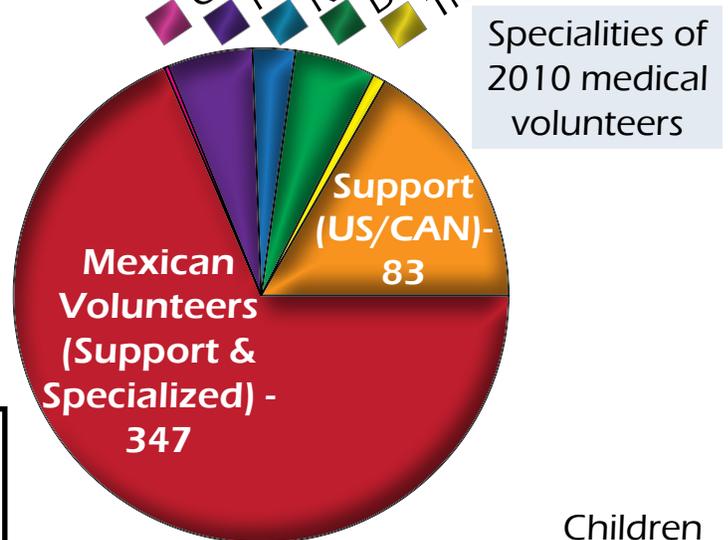
The short-term (caravan) teams that signed up to serve represented 8 states and 2 provinces, as well as approximately 8 different denominations.

We praise God for the 785+ people who made decisions for Jesus Christ at our medical team events this year, as well as for the countless others who came to the Lord through our other ministries.

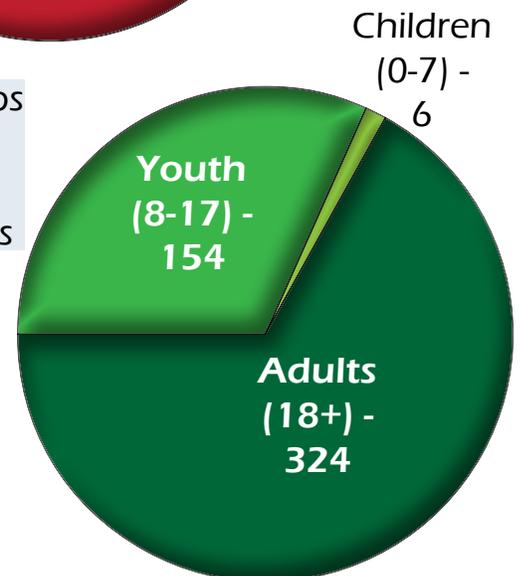
2010 volunteers, by type of team



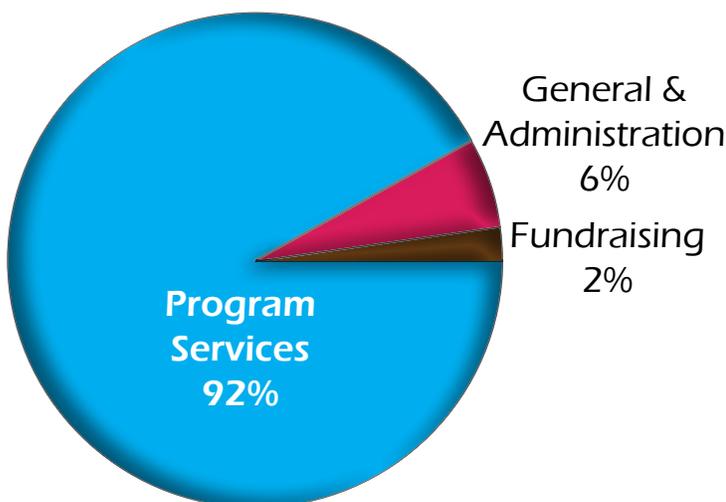
Specialities of 2010 medical volunteers



Age groups of 2010 caravan volunteers



Expenditures



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Bringing healing and hope to the people of Mexico.

