

Libby News

Blessed Partnerships When we sat down to write to you we both immediately had the same thought that we wanted to share, "Let's talk about our partners." David had Nathan. Moses had Aaron. Paul had Barnabus. There are countless examples in the Bible of partners working together, so that they can do what God called them to do. We find that God continues to work with partnerships and He has blessed us with great partners! There are too many to tell you of all of them by name, but we would like to highlight the different kinds of partners God has blessed us with.

Mexican Medical Staff, Missionaries, and Volunteers

The missionary partners we spend the most time with are those we work with here in the office. The Lord has blessed us with a team that is committed to sharing Christ in Mexico. Then there are the missionaries we work with in Mexico. These are the people we are here to serve in order to help them meet their ministry goals. We also have many opportunities to serve with them in Mexico and encourage one another. Last, but certainly not least, are the partners that give of their time to come serve with us. Some come for a day several times a year, while others come for several days all at once. We get to partner with each one so that people can know their Creator as their Savior. We so want to list names as each person and group is such an integral part of our lives, but having served with 14 teams this year, space limits us from mentioning everyone.

Mexican Pastors and Churches

God has brought us into contact with some amazing pastors and churches in Mexico. Pastors who have a desire to grow their church spiritually. Churches that desire to reach out into their communities so that their family, friends and neighbors can know Christ. There are pastors we work with in Tijuana who come to serve at every Brigada, even when it is across town, up to an hour away from their church. They believe in the ministry and desire to partner with us.

Supporting Partners

If you are reading this letter chances are good that this is you! There is no way we could be serving here, building relationships with partners in Mexico, without our supporting partners. For some of you it has been faithful prayer support to hold us up under the enemy's fire. Praying that our efforts will not be in vain and that God will call people to Himself. We praise God for you! Your prayers are being answered. We are healthy, have energy to make it through each day and God is calling people to Himself. We know of 800 people who prayed to receive Christ in 2016. Others of you give financially so that we are able to pay for our housing, food, ministry supplies, vehicles, Thank you! What a blessing to be able to focus our energies on the ministry because God is meeting our needs through you. Many of you pray and give. You are valuable partners in this ministry. We share the victory with you. Thank you.



*For unto us a Child is born,
unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be
upon His shoulder. And
His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.*

Isaiah 9:6



A story of how it all comes together... As I, Craig, was speaking at my grandfather's funeral a few weeks ago a memory came to me of one Sunday night 45 years ago when Gramp took a piece of paper and taught me to draw a box by drawing first one square then drawing another by beginning in the middle of the first one. Then I clearly recalled his words, "Now, just connect the points with the lines and watch the box become 3-dimensional and come to life."

That is our aim here to connect the dots between the needs of those whom God has entrusted to our care in Mexico with our resources: medical personnel, community health awareness, education, evangelism training, discipleship, prayer and counseling, and children's ministry. All in order to help others take ownership of their faith.

One example is when long-time friends and supporters from one of Kristi's sending churches came to visit us recently. We took them down to Tijuana with us for a scheduled prep meeting for the November 12 brigada (medical outreach). Yes, we were able to confirm the logistics of the location, the transportation routes, the partnering Mexican churches, the permission from local officials and the medicine inventory management, but the most important thing of the day was the opportunity for our friends and us to pray over the site alongside our Mexican partners and cry out the combined desires of our hearts to heal that community by bringing the patients to a full self-knowledge of who they are in their Creator and their need for His redemption, forgiveness and love.

Our friends can now visualize that brigada location and praise God along with us and the Mexican pastors and lay leaders we served with that day because 91 adults and 105 children sat with one-on-one counselors and submitted their life to God for the first time by confessing their sins and accepting Jesus as Lord of their life. November 12, 2016 is a day that changed those lives for eternity.

It seems as though at every event there is one person whom God directs towards our hearts in a special way. At this event there was a local man who was that person. He was our most eager volunteer for set-up on Friday and was the first to arrive on Saturday; once again eager to get started. Adrian, a very expressive man, has to be expressive, because you see, he is tongue-tied. Throughout the day the Holy Spirit impressed upon Kristi and me to speak with the local missionaries, Aidan's pastor and his family to see if we could get him into surgery for his tongue. So, with support from them all, we will be taking Adrian, his pastor, and his family with us to San Quintin when we lead a team there in February. In San Quintin we have a consultation lined up for him with our long time partner, Dr. Gonzalez at Hospital El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd Hospital); the same hospital where Kristi first began her work with Mexican Medical over 22 years ago. I hope time permits us to have a game of charades with Aidan before his surgery. I want to be on his team because I'm confident he will win.

We can not tell you how grateful we are to serve with fellow staff and missionaries, Mexican pastors and lay leaders, our prayer and financial supporters as well as hundreds of volunteers. Year after year each give of their time, talent and treasure to invest into the most important investments of this life- that of helping others take ownership of their faith.

Thank you for each of you who made an investment over the past year in your own special way. Your partnership with us helps make it possible for us to connect the points of need with linear relationships that turn lives multi-dimensional with eternal life. We pray that your Christmas is multi-dimensional.



*In His Ship,
Craig, Kristi,
Joel + Katie*

Josh & Katie's Corner

It's hard to believe how fast time flies. Josh turned 11 in June and Katie 8 in May. They are well adapted to a bi-cultural life as on average we are in Mexico with a team every month.

This year has brought countless opportunities to have friends over and go to friends' homes nearby. They have both loved this aspect of our neighborhood. While they miss their friends at the AWANA (Bible) Club they had attended for years, they have acclimated to the club nearer our home and are making friends there as well.

Katie loves to sing. In January she joined a children's choir. She even had a solo in the Christmas performance last weekend. When a friend asked her if she was nervous to sing in front of all those people she said, "No, not really." She can often be heard making up tunes to poems she has to read for school. In addition to singing she played baseball and has been active in Frontier Girls club. She's been working on her nursing skills at the outreaches in Mexico. Her favorite station is the blood glucose area. She does a great job pricking fingers!

Josh is enjoying having space to shoot his BB gun and fly his quad copter. He started the year with basketball, quickly moved into (and really enjoyed) baseball, and ended with flag football. This fall a friend invited him to join Boy Scouts, so that has become his latest club. He is learning guitar to help lead worship, is honing his photography skills at the outreaches, and also serves as an edecan (guide) at the medical brigadas.

As a family we find many opportunities to share about Christ as we get to know other families through these various activities.

There are only two things that last for eternity: people and God's Word. Invest in something that outlasts this life.