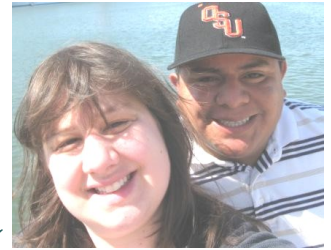


May 2015

The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20 The Ventura Lewis Family (Buky & Theresa) Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



Mourning into Joy

At the beginning of the year, I reflected back on 2014, and, while we saw God move in a lot of amazing ways, I have to admit that one of the things that stood out to us was the number of loved ones we had lost. Although we know that through Christ there is victory over death and a hope of seeing our loved ones again, we went through a season of loss and mourning.

This year I began to take hold of God's promises that He turns our mourning into joy. Isaiah 35:10b says, "Gladness and joy will overtake them and sorrow and sighing will flee away." I began to declare that this dry period would end and that God had good things to come that were just on the brink! I pleaded to God, "Don't let me lose heart now." Little were we to know that God would "overtake us" with joy and gladness in March, when we found out I was 15 weeks pregnant!



Above: Buky and Theresa prepare for parenthood.

We will be having a baby girl in September, right around my birthday, September 11th. She will be the best birthday gift ever! Buky and I are both so excited about this new season in our lives!

In the womb, this baby girl has started off with some extensive traveling! In February, she rode down the Baja to Los Cabos for the Mexican Medical staff retreat/mission trip to aid people recovering from Hurricane Odile. She even snorkeled in the Sea of Cortez! And in March, she traveled to visit churches in Oregon, farther north than her father has ever been.

We praise God that there has been progress made with Buky's paperwork. We are still waiting for an appointment, but we have an immigration agent and have been turning in all of our documents to him. It appears that we are closer than ever! Ultimately, it is up to God as to where this baby is born, because we will have the baby in the country where Buky can witness the birth. We leave this in God's hands! I take heart that Mary traveled on a donkey during her pregnancy and gave birth to baby Jesus in a manger. If she can get through that, I can get through anything the Lord has for us!

We are so grateful to God for you, our partners in ministry, who encourage us, pray for us, serve with us, and support us financially. We are richly blessed to have you in our lives! If

you are going through a trial or sorrow right now in your life, we encourage you with this verse from Psalm 27:14, “Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.” Your deliverer, Our Lord, will come to your rescue!

Surgeries and Juanito

In January, we hosted two weekend surgical teams that volunteered at Hospital Buen Pastor. One surgeon came to see the hospital and explore the possibility of future trips. He assisted with two surgeries. Then the second team performed ten procedures on four patients.

We were joined by missionary Dave Johnson from San Vicente on the second surgical weekend. He brought Juanito, who he had met on a mission trip to Nayarit in mainland Mexico. Juanito comes from an isolated village that is only accessible by foot and donkey. He has spent his whole life tongue-tied, so Dave brought Juanito to Baja so that he could have a surgery at Buen Pastor to loosen his tongue.

The surgery ended up being very short and successful; however, even though Juanito’s tongue now works, he still needs training to learn how to talk. Juanito has been living in San Vicente since his surgery, where he has been tutored in speech and reading.

While Juanito was in San Quintín, Dave took him to see Allan Lee, who gave him

an audio Bible with the three languages that Juanito understands – Spanish and two indigenous dialects. Since Juanito comes from an isolated village, he is not familiar with how to use a lot of technology. So, I had the chance to teach Juanito how to use his new audio Bible. Not only did I teach him how to navigate through his new Bibles, but I also had to teach him how to press the buttons. He seemed to pick it up pretty fast though, because by the next morning he was at the breakfast table listening to his audio Bible. Our prayer is that God would use Juanito and his audio Bible to spread the Gospel in his area in Nayarit.



Above: Juanito learns how to use his new audio Bible.

Staff Trip to Cabo

Mexican Medical had received word that one of the best ways to help Cabo San Lucas recover from Hurricane Odile, which hit in September, was by going and investing in the economy. So, at the beginning of February, we drove down to Cabo for a staff retreat/mission trip. We held two outreaches in communities that had been hard hit by the hurricane.

At both churches, we had V.B.S. activities for the children, a lunch of chicken tacos for the

community, and food staples for the pastors to distribute. At one church that had been partially destroyed, the team took out the old platform and put in a new, bigger one. At the second church, we held a health fair with doctor's consults, eyeglasses, foot washing, and vital signs.



Above: The second church where we held a health fair.

Now, we had been to Cabo for our honeymoon, but we had only experienced the tourist side of Cabo. Of course, we are used to seeing poverty around San Quintín, but it was strange to witness the other side



Left: This man had just started attending church. Buky had a chance to encourage him to keep seeking the Lord in his life. Here he is reading the Gospel of John.

Left (from left to right): Vince Trujillo, Buky, Pastor Rafael Ventura Jr., and Gerardo Ayala work together to move the old slab of cement at the first church where we worked.



of Cabo, especially after it had been hit by the hurricane. Buky was moved to hear the pastors and leaders share stories about surviving the hurricane, the destruction to the churches, and how they defended their communities with sticks and big bonfires to keep the looters away.

At the health fair, I met a woman named Neira. She told me about her ex-husband and her son that she hadn't seen in years. I was able to talk to her about the power of forgiveness. We had a sweet time of prayer together. She was just sure that I was going to have a baby soon; little did I know that I was already pregnant.



Above: I had a chance to pray for Neira.

I also met little Isaías at the craft table. He was the dirtiest little boy there, but one of the cutest! He was pretty squirmy. He kept coming up to me and I would give him hugs, lift him up in the

air, or tickle him. His giggling was infectious! I prayed that all of the hugs and laughter would wipe away any bad memories he had of the hurricane.

Visit to Oregon

In February, I made a trip home to Oregon to visit family and churches. I was able to attend His Church in Forest Grove, Oregon, for the first time. Their church had come down on mission trips with us before. I also attended the missions conference weekend at Southwest Hills Baptist Church in Beaverton. Finally, I attended my home church, Rock Creek in Portland. On our drive back down to San Diego, we stopped in Sutherlin, Oregon, to have lunch with some of our friends from Sutherlin Family Church. It was a busy time, but a great time to make connections and catch up with people. It will be even nicer when Buky can make the trips with me too!



Above: Allan Lee shares with a Sunday school class at the SW Hills missions conference about distributing DVDs of the Jesus film in indigenous dialects.

In our next update, I will share how God moved through the ministry while we served with our four spring teams!

Bring a Team to La Esperanza!

We still have weeks available this summer for teams that would like to come and serve at La Esperanza! It's not too late! A mission trip is a great chance for your team to gain cross-cultural ministry experience. It's affordable! Team members lives can be radically changed through their experience here. If you are interested, please contact Craig Libby in the Mexican Medical office at 619-463-4777.

Please Pray For . . .

- **Many lives to be touched by God through the ministry this summer**
- **Unity, perseverance, and sensitivity to God's voice as our team ministers**
- **A healthy pregnancy for Theresa and baby girl**
- **Buky's visa appointment - We trust that God will bring this about in His perfect timing**
- **Good health for Buky's mom, Alicia.**

Upcoming Ministry:

- **Early May - Theresa visits churches in Sacramento, CA, and Reno, NV**
- **June 9th - Pick up summer interns**
- **June 13th - Arrival of first summer team, The Rock, Nampa, ID.**

Contact Information for Theresa & Buky

Address for donations: Mexican Medical 7850 Lester Ave. Lemon Grove, CA 91945	Phone Numbers:
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For correspondence: include c/o Theresa Lewis with address above.	U.S. cell (when stateside): 503-537-8373
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