

The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

The Ventura Lewis Family (Buky & Theresa)

Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



Ten Years with Mex Med

It hardly seems possible that it was ten years ago in June that I packed my bags to leave Oregon and join up with Mexican Medical Ministries in San Diego, California. At the time, I said that I would start off serving for a year. Little did I



Above: Buky helps me with the microphone while I teach children about tooth brushing.

know what God had in store for my life! I am so grateful to God for His faithfulness

and care, and for the way He provided me with a ministry partner, my

husband, Buky. We are also so grateful for all of the people that have supported us financially, prayed for us and encouraged us through the years as we have ministered in the San Quintín Valley. Thank you!

How Much Do You Pay Them?

This summer we took The Rock Church (from Idaho) to pick cucumbers in the greenhouses so that they could experience the life of a farm worker. Each American was paired up with a Mexican worker. The Mexican worker picked the cucumbers and the Americans ran the full buckets to the truck to be emptied. The man who emptied all of the buckets into the truck asked Buky, "How much do you pay the Americans to work for you? You must have a lot of money." Buky laughed and said, "That's an interesting question. Would you believe that the Americans pay to come here and work?"

It does not make sense to the Mexican people that Americans would pay to come down to work in Mexico. It's crazy! However, these American groups come down with the purpose of serving and sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the Mexican people. We had seven groups join us this summer to do just that. They joined us from the states of California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alabama, and New Hampshire. They joined us for V.B.S. in seven different communities; film ministry, Gospel CD distribution and a children's health fair in Camp Vergel; a medical brigade at Rancho Santa Mónica, and caring for the elderly at Buen Samaritano.

Besides the groups, we also had help from missionary Cris McCoy; summer interns Dani Zarling, Gabe Smith, and Shelbe Jordan; and the volunteers from our church, Iglesia Hermosa.



Above (From left to right): Dani Zarling, Shelbe Jordan, Cris McCoy, and Gabe Smith

Ministry at Buen Samaritano

The Rock and Moro Community Church went with us to minister at Buen Samaritano, the assisted-care living facility for the elderly. It was so fun to see the smiles on the residents' faces while we massaged their feet, played with balloons, colored, and sang VBS songs.

Right:
Florinda
chats with
one of the
residents of
Buen
Samaritano.



I was so impressed with Florinda, a shy woman who had participated in my women's Bible study last year, when she volunteered to serve at Buen Samaritano. She really came out of her shell and was in her element sitting and talking to the women. At the end of the day, she had tears in her eyes and didn't want to leave.

Josefina used to be a very joyful woman, but as dementia has set in, she has become very sad and withdrawn. It turned out that my 4-year-old nephew, Gabriel, was the ticket to draw Josefina out from her fog. As soon as I introduced her to Gabriel, Josefina was smiling and laughing again. It was amazing how God used Gabriel to help her recover her joy.



Above: Josefina starts to smile as she greets Gabriel.

Impacting a Community

We held VBS at a park in a community called Flores Magón with the Community Church of Seattle. On the last day of VBS, the whole team spent the morning picking up garbage and painting over the graffiti on the walls and

bleachers of the basketball court. By the time we were ready to start VBS, we had way more children than we had had the other days. At the end of the program, we washed the children's hands and gave them snacks and a t-shirt. Near the end of the give away, we were concerned that we would run out, but we were grateful to have just enough for all the children that attended! By the end of the program, a government worker had come by to see the improvements to the park. He was impressed that the job was completed by a group of Christians.



Above: There were just enough goody bags for every child at V.B.S. **Right:** Volunteers from C.C. of Seattle paint the walls of the basketball court.

The Bible School Library

Pastor Rafael Jr. started teaching classes again at the Bible school this September. During the summer, the groups worked to have the area ready for classes. The classroom and library were painted, as well as the outside walls. The sidewalks were re-done. Bookcases were built and varnished. It was only a few days after the bookcases were built that we received some Christian books in Spanish to put on the shelves! What timing! There were computers donated and we also have a shipment of donated office furniture on its way.

A Busy Clinic

The government doctors come to Clínica La Esperanza once a week and then Gerardo is there to tend to minor issues the rest of the week. However, there was one day this summer that the clinic was busier than usual. It was a Friday afternoon and the Community Church of Seattle team had gone to the beach. Unfortunately, they came

back with a girl with muscle spasms in her back, a guy that was hit in the face with a soccer ball and needed stitches, and my niece, Keila, had a sea-urchin spine stuck in her foot. The clinic was full! Fortunately, we had a foot doctor, two dentists, and a nurse on the team who went to work on the patients.



Right: Sarah comforts Keila, as the doctor removes the sea urchin spine from her foot.

Although it was unfortunate to see these people in pain, it was amazing to see the clinic accommodate all of these cases and see how God brought together the perfect team to handle every situation.

The Gospel in Many Languages

We joined up with Allan Lee, a missionary with Mexican Medical who focuses on the recording and distribution of Gospel materials in people's native languages and dialects. Our team worked with him in Camp Vergel for four afternoons going door to door and found 60 languages and dialects represented. Over 300 individuals and families received Gospel CDS in their language and 120 received the Jesus film DVD.



Above: Allan Lee distributes Gospel materials at the medical brigade in Rancho Santa Mónica.

Medical Brigade in Rancho Santa Mónica

On July 14th, we participated in a medical brigade at Rancho Santa Mónica led by the Libby family with volunteers from Reel Life from Alabama, Tijuana churches, and Mexican Medical. Farm workers normally do not get time off to go to the doctor, so it was a blessing that their boss let them receive the free services. That day, there were 115 medical consults, 34 haircuts, 105 pairs of reading glasses given away, and 75 patients who saw the dentist. It was great to see volunteers from our church praying for the patients. There were 44 people who prayed to receive Christ that day.



Above: A worker tries on a new pair of reading glasses before reading the Gospel of John to test them.

Loss in the Village

Chayito is a woman from our church who has an infectious laugh. We were saddened this summer to hear that her son, René, 29-years-old, was killed in a car accident. The news impacted the whole community as we gathered together for his funeral service. We had held VBS in the village that same week with Faith Bible church

from New Hampshire. Now, on what would have been the last afternoon of VBS, we stood on piles of dirt around the grave.



Above: The children get ready to pray at the V.B.S. in the village.

I watched the same children that came to VBS cry over the loss of their friend and I prayed that Jesus would comfort them in their time of mourning and that His message of salvation was planted in their hearts.

God works in mysterious ways because we had scheduled to paint Chayito's house the following week and it so happened that one of Chayito's good friends, Amy Fuller, and her parents, were with us to serve that week. So, we were not only able to help Chayito paint her house, but we were also able to come alongside of her and encourage her in her time of grief. Chayito and her daughter even joined us for our 4th of July celebration and we were able to hear her laugh again.



Left: Victoria, Amy, and Richard Fuller encouraged Chayito during their stay and celebrated 20 years since they served at La Esperanza for the first time.

Children Impacted by the Message

On July 31st, we held our last ministry event of the summer, a health fair for 550 children in Camp Vergel with Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church. The children learned about how they could take care of their bodies by eating healthy, exercising, brushing their teeth and washing their hands. Once they completed all of the stations, they received a prize bag with a washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, etc.

Buky taught the children about Jesus using the wordless book. There were many children who were unfamiliar with the teaching. Among the crowd, there was a group of teenagers that were getting rowdy in line. They didn't want to listen to the teaching; they just wanted their card punched, so they could get their prize. Finally, they sat down to hear the message. Buky looked into the eyes of the leader of the group and he told him, "Jesus loves you." The boy had tears welling up in his eyes. He didn't know what to say. At the end of the teaching,

the children bowed their heads to pray to give their lives to Jesus and this boy joined in with them.



Above: Buky shares about the streets of gold in heaven with the children at the health fair.

Please Pray For . . .

- **Sensitive ears to sense God's divine appointments and direction.**
- **Oscar - His seizure medicine stopped working.**
- **Consuelo and family - Hearts surrendered to God**
- **My mother-in-law Alicia's health. She has tests and an appointment this month.**

Upcoming Ministry:

- **Oct. 18th: Start-up of Saturday Kids' Club**
- **Oct. 31st: Harvest Party with the children**
- **Nov. 3rd - 5th: Dr. Miller Dental Outreach**
- **Nov. 10th - 14th: School Health Fair Outreach**

Contact Information for Theresa & Buky

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