

# Missions Focus

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Issue 10  
Fall/Winter  
2015/2016

Serving in Mexico

October Dental Team- This was Dr. Miller's 15<sup>th</sup> year bringing a dental team to provide free dental care for a full three days to the poor of our community. They saw over 70 patients. For some it was their first visit ever to a dentist. We used our two chair dental office in the clinic here at La Esperanza. While patients were waiting, we were able to love on, talk with and pray for them. We sent each patient away with a toothbrush, toothpaste, floss, and a book of John. Each of the children also received prizes.

This year my job was to keep the flow of patients steady. I loved being able to comfort and assure each one as to the good care they would get from the dental staff. And knowing that each one was leaving with better oral health brought joy to me. I was even able to bring 4 of the Ramos family members to receive care. They always come and help with this event but have never before received the care offered by Dr. Miller and his staff.

*Dr. Miller and  
Dental Assistant  
Alia.*



*Dr. Bonnie and  
Dental Assistant  
Amanda with  
patients.*



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*Kid's Club kids dressed as Biblical Characters to celebrate the Fall Festival.*

Harvest Festival Celebration – We had approx. 125 people come to the church's harvest celebration this year. What a great turnout! There were about 50 children dressed in Biblical character costumes, about 35 youth, and the rest were adults. We served tortas and juice. We sang songs, shared God's Word, told a story of the Good Shepherd through a drama, and bobbed for apples. In Mexico, celebrating Halloween night in this manner is a big deal, for internalized in each Mexican is the idea that October 31<sup>st</sup> is the devil's night. So it is a big deal for Mexicans to come celebrate Jesus instead!



Visits - I have had lots of opportunities to visit other believers and bring encouragement and prayer. It seems this has been a bigger portion of the work these days rather than winning souls for Christ; however, it is continually on my heart to love well those who don't yet know Jesus. But oh how we believers need the company of one another! What joy, what blessing, what encouragement this brings!



*These are some of the beautiful women that I get to visit, Sarah and Virginia.*



Village Losses - Our little village of Nueva Odisea lost two more lives in 2015. One was a 9 year-old girl who had stepped on something that stung her at the beach. By the time she reached medical care, it was too late. We also lost a 5 month-old baby boy who had liver problems. These are such hard losses to process. The village custom is for everyone to come out for the services, which were held in our church, La Hermosa. The body is displayed for 24 hours before being sealed at the last portion of the services. Then everyone travels together out to the local cemetery where volunteers have dug the grave just that morning. After last goodbyes the small casket is lowered into the ground and then covered with dirt. A wood frame is then laid on top and cement is mixed by hand so that a cement slab will cover the burial plot. A wooden cross is placed last. There is great comfort in everyone being together in this way, and even more so, because the Gospel of Jesus Christ is shared with grieving family and friends.

San Francisco Village – I continue to stay involved in S.F. in a variety of ways. In one opportunity, we were given an invitation to come teach the children before the meal at the food program. In early November, Leti and Marta, who are Bible students, went with me, and Leti taught the children about the ways in which Jesus cares for us. It was a great time with the kids. We played, sang songs, shared a Bible story and colored. The kids there really love to color.



Dream – The night before we went to San Francisco to teach God’s word I had a dream... We were in S.F. and all the children were running toward us and past us toward some place, but I did not know where they were running to. I saw one little girl running and almost falling. I encouraged her on. As she ran past me, for an instant I felt really sad. I asked myself, “Had I just missed an opportunity to minister?” Immediately I felt the Lord’s Presence near me and I heard Him say, “Don’t be sad. The children are running to me. You are pointing the children to me. Well done.” I felt so encouraged to hear from the Lord in this way.

### New Opportunities

Due to a prior commitment, we have not been able to participate in the food program since early November, but new opportunities are on the horizon. I had received stocking caps for the kids in S.F. and asked the Lord to show me another way to get these hats to the children for the winter. Doors opened for us to go to the primary school in S.F. to pass these out to the children before their winter break. We were invited by the director of the school to come on the last day of the school session in December. The kids and staff were celebrating the arrival of winter break enjoying ‘pozole’ and watching a movie together. They invited us to join them. Afterward, we blessed the students and teachers with stocking caps. I am hoping to be able to return in January with a small team to work with kids that need help learning to read. I am excited for the new opportunities that may come through this open door with the director of the primary school.



# Ps 46:10 Be still and know that I am God.

## Christmas Gifts

Through your donations we were able to provide food baskets for two families in need and surprise the children of one family with stuffed stockings and gifts of warm blankets for the adults. We also gifted baby clothes, warm blankets, and diapers to an expecting mom. She wept at receiving these saying, "These are the first items that I have for my baby boy coming in early February." (Although it was spoken in Spanish of course)



*It was so much fun making these for the Ramirez children.*

## Lessons with the Lord

*"The only true victory is not the resolution of our circumstances or problems, it is in becoming like Jesus in the process." Graham Cooke*

I have been in a season of being undone, unsure, shaken-up, and even afraid at times, due to certain circumstances... but the Lord is drawing me close, revealing Himself to me in ways I have never known Him. It has been wonderful and hard, but I am so grateful for these trials as they press me to draw closer to Him, King Jesus!

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