

December 2015

# With Grateful Hearts We Write



## What God has done for us this year

**1** We once again witnessed hundreds of people coming to a saving knowledge of Christ as God continues to use the medical outreaches, the local Mexican church, and one-on-one evangelism to call people to Himself.

time missionaries with Mexican Medical. Their hearts are on fire for the Kingdom. We love serving with them and with all the staff and missionaries at Mexican Medical.

piecing Craig's foot back together.  
**7** Provided 14 teams for us to serve with in Mexico. What a joy to serve the Lord with such amazing people from all over

the country and see God work in them and through them.

**2** Given us partners in Ministry who faithfully hold us up in prayer and send in financial gifts so that we can continue serving in Mexico. To see God provide through you is amazing and humbling.

**5** Lymphoma hasn't returned and Kristi is feeling well. She continues to check in with her oncologist every three months and has one scan a year. She is pretty much back to normal, but does notice that she gets tired easily.

**8** Blessed time with friends and family. Our time in New England was amazing, relaxing, and fun. We were able to connect with many people. It was just what we needed. Then, it was great having Craig's mom here to help us move and paint. We are looking forward to Kristi's parents joining us for Christmas.

**3** A larger place to call home. We said good-bye to our one bedroom apartment as the Lord provided a larger place for us to call home. In our search for this house we created a list of things that we liked about different places. Look at the list at the right to see how God provided so many of these things for us to enjoy. It seems like a miracle.

**6** Guarding Craig's life when he fell about 25 feet off a cliff into the ocean. The Lord flipped him around and slowed his fall so he didn't land on his head or his back. It no doubt saved his life. We are truly grateful. Then, He healed Craig's foot as it was smashed into many pieces when he fell. At the first appointment with the foot surgeon Craig wasn't given much hope that he would ever be able to run or bike again. At the last appointment that same surgeon admitted that Craig was healing much better than he had expected, considering the extent of his injury. We praise God for

**9** We were able to share about the ministry with 12 churches this year. It's always a joy to share what God is doing.

**4** God has added to our Mexican team with Octavio & Maria Luisa who serve with us in the Tijuana Brigadas. While we have worked with them for 10 years, this year they took a step of faith to become full

**10** The Lord has expanded our vision by opening doors to serve with surgical teams in San Quintin and taking the large medical outreaches that we've done for years to new places, including San Felipe in 2016.

### Our New Home

- Glass Block Shower
- Sunken Living Room
- Pan hanger in kitchen
- Double oven
- 6 burner gas stovetop
- 4 bedrooms
- Grassy area to throw a ball
- A little land
- Outdoor projects for Craig
- A pool
- A real mail box
- 2 stories
- Country feel
- Pine trees
- Spacious
- Carpet in bedrooms
- Hardwood floors

*From the heart of Kristi:*

I feel loved. So very loved. The past few years have had their ups and downs. It's not that I didn't feel loved then, I did, but somehow, this year everywhere I turn I see God pouring His blessings out on me personally. As we celebrate the Christmas Season I'm in awe of the outpouring of His love on us. He loves us sooooo much that He sent His Son to earth, to die, for us. That is an amazing love! It's my prayer that all will know and feel the love of our Heavenly Father. What better time than Christmas to share His love?

## Joshua

Josh turned 10 this year. He continues to enjoy playing baseball, basketball, and soccer, is an avid reader, and a loyal New England Patriots and Boston Red Sox fan. It was a highlight to go to a Red Sox game at Fenway this year. He is progressing in guitar playing and Spanish language. It warms our hearts to hear him recite verses for AWANA (Bible Club) and read his Bible every night. He seems to have inherited his dad's gift of teasing which often brings a smile.

## Katie

Katie is now seven and at the age where all she wants for Christmas is her two front teeth! She is the creative one of the family as she is frequently found drawing and creating art projects. Her ability to draw things with respect to dimension is amazing to us. She is especially enjoying being able to play with all of her baby doll toys in her new room. She loves to sing and is also doing a great job learning verses for AWANA and reading her Bible.

## Craig's Perspective:

The other day, while in Home Depot, I heard a young boy respond to his father's call for him to come by saying "Papa, yes, Papa." Having just passed the one-year anniversary of Dr. Tamez' death, my thoughts instantly returned to a small building in a little village on the south side of Tijuana that was serving as a makeshift church one hot August day in 2011. The setting was a leadership meeting of the local pastors for the upcoming medical brigada (outreach), which we now refer to as the "Rodeo Brigada" due to its remote location and the fact that we set up our tents alongside the horse corrals for a rodeo ring. As the seven men voiced their prayers audibly praying over the strongholds of the community, the presence of the Holy Spirit was amongst us in a way I had never experienced before. I was praying alongside Dr. Tamez and could hear him yearning to God to break the strongholds of this

community. As he did, he often paused to listen to God and then respond by saying "Papa, Sí, Papa." At first, I found it unfamiliar perhaps even unsettling to hear this deep-voiced, giant of a man, in both physical stature and spiritual maturity to call anyone Papa. But those were fleeting thoughts as I realized the intimacy he shared with his Creator. A week later, the Lord did answer the prayers of those in the room that day, as 110 people prayed to receive Jesus as their Savior at the medical brigada. Recently we learned that the demand and flow of drugs decreased dramatically in that village. Ann Voskamp states *"You're made for the place where your real passion meets compassion, because there lies your real purpose."* Dr. Tamez accepted and lived out God's purpose for his life. Our family's true desire is to have such an intimate relationship with God that we hear His voice directing our purpose and that we then passionately respond "Papa, Sí, Papa."