



Llevando la Luz de la Esperanza (Taking the Light of Hope)

By Pastor Rafael Ventura, Jr., serving with Mexican Medical Ministries

Hello, everyone! I'd like to thank you in advance for taking the time to read this, my second newsletter. When I started this newsletter I was sitting in Mexican Medical's van driving Michelle back to the San Diego/Tijuana border so that she could continue resting after her gallbladder surgery. We were stuck in traffic near the border, waiting and WAITING. As we waited, I thought about each one of you that have visited La Esperanza and our school, and how you leave Mexico different because of the work you have done during your time here. You go back like a farmer heading home after a long day of planting, perhaps tired, but filled with hope because of the seed you sowed. Thank you.



San Quintín valley

During my time in Tijuana, I made preparations for the Bible school graduation that's coming up on July 18th. Pricing plaques, caps and gowns, and making the other necessary arrangements is a lot of work, but the students are very excited, and so am I. It will be very exciting to see how God will use each of these graduates that are preparing to go illuminate this world with the light of the talents and ministries that God is giving each one of them. Some are nervous, others feel a little uncertain yet are excited to go out and serve the Kingdom of God.

In the last newsletter, I mentioned two of our students that had to travel back to their villages in the state of Guerrero to apply for identification documents needed to register as ministers in accordance with the laws here. They have since returned and I would like to share with you how each is doing. Gerardo was able to meet with his family, obtained all the required documents and came back on Wednesday, June 9th.



Celso, me and Gerardo

Celso, who left home at a young age 12 years ago, was able to reunite with his family. Sadly, he learned that during his time away, his father had passed away. His mother is doing well and was very happy to see her son again. She is also supportive of his new faith, because she sees the changes in Celso's life. His brothers helped him get his paperwork sorted out and now he has all the needed documents. While there he saw a great spiritual need in his village, a village with a long history of idolatry. His family told him it will be very difficult to start a church but God has laid a strategy out in his heart, "It will take time, but I will



work with the community, winning them over one by one until there are enough of us to raise up a church in the

village." After his graduation he plans on being here at La Esperanza for a little while, then will return to his village to stay and start what the Lord has placed on his heart, first with his family, then his community.

We are continuing to hold services in homes and God keeps using this as a way of winning souls for His Kingdom. Some of those who have been reached recently will be getting baptized on June 20th and others will be entering the Bible school so they can be prepared to serve the Kingdom of God.

We had the opportunity to minister at a youth gathering for many local churches. I had the privilege of sharing a message which challenged the youth to give their lives for the cause of the Gospel, to be aware of the times, and to recognize that the final harvest is approaching. The IBMC students presented a very powerful drama about the need to understand that many of our friends are perishing and facing an eternity in a place of torment, away from God.



Women's Conference

More than 400 women attended a women's conference hosted at our church. A week later we also shared with about 260 men, whom we challenged to be lights in their homes and workplaces, and to carry out the role that God has given them.

Praises, Prayer Requests & Upcoming Events



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Support may also be sent to the above address, with checks made out to Mexican Medical and a note enclosed designating it to my account. Donations are tax-deductible.

- Praise the Lord! Sunday June 20th, we will be having baptisms for those who have recently joined our heavenly family.
- Please pray for those that prayed to receive Christ at the mini-brigada in Tijuana, that the local churches will come together and that the seeds planted that day will grow.
- At the end of May, Michelle had gallbladder surgery at El Buen Pastor hospital in San Quintín. I was able to be with her during those days and help take care of her. She is recovering well and I give thanks to God. During this time I had a chance to reflect on my health and how I can begin to take better care of myself.
- I also have a blessing to report, an older widow that recently joined our church gave me a small lot near her ranch. Praise the Lord! I plan on building a very small place where I can go rest and get refocused since it is in the hills away from our little village.
- Please keep the students and teachers in your prayers as we finish up classes and prepare for the graduation July 18th.

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*News from
Pastor Rafael Ventura, Jr./
La Esperanza Bible School*

(Continued from first page)

June 9th was my birthday. I had planned to celebrate with the students and the church had planned a surprise party but God had other plans. The day before my birthday an older man from our community that had accepted Christ just two months before passed away. We didn't get to do anything we had planned but praise God because during the funeral two people accepted Christ as their personal Savior. What great surprises the Lord gives us!

After all that, I was able to take a few days off in a place that is very nice to rest in Tijuana. (Thank you for setting it up, Michelle—I love you!) I am very grateful to God for the victories he has given me in my struggles. There has been a lot of work and it has been sometimes exhausting, but I have learned to find strength in God and in our church's ministry leaders. Thank you Lord for the family and team that you have given me!

On June 12th, I got to help in the children's ministry at a mini-brigada in Tijuana. Praise God



that He prepared hearts and the majority of the kids prayed the sinners prayer. Four kids in particular asked Christ into their hearts; it was a very special experience that really encouraged me. What a gift from God to see a little boy shedding tears for the salvation that God has given him!