



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

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

We thank the Lord for this great opportunity that He has given us to serve in His kingdom, taking the light of hope to the lives of many children, youth, adults and elderly people alike. For our first newsletter we would like to give you an overview of some of the recent activities that have taken place here at the Bible school at La Esperanza.

This year we have received more support and because of this, have been able to increase the number of students. Now that we have more willing hands and hearts, we are able to reach out to many more people.



One of the big activities that we had this past winter was *Mágica Navidad* (Christmas Magic) 2009. We were able to minister to more than 560 children, parents and other adults in attendance, through the drama that was presented by the Bible school students. Afterwards many came and told us that they were grateful for the message. Times have been difficult economically here and many parents were sad because they would not be able to buy their children toys, but they realized that the best gifts can't be bought in stores but rather come from the heart, like love, time together, communication and forgiveness.

In December we were able to have a special youth conference themed "Todo por Cristo" (All for Christ) and in January another, themed "Heme Aquí" (Here Am I). Various churches from throughout the San Quintín Valley attended and not only was the church filled with around 400 youth, but 22 young people asked Jesus to be their personal Savior. Many other youth came forward and accepted the challenge to rededicate their lives to Christ and become more involved in their churches and communities.

Beginning in January we were able to begin *El Club de Súper Soñadores* (The Super Dreamers Club) which meets every other Saturday for children ranging from ages 3 to 13 years old. Most of these children come from broken homes or have parents involved in drugs and/or alcohol. The goal of this club is to give the kids an opportunity to learn more about God, give them lessons on moral values, have a time for activities, and also provide them with a meal. Some of the topics covered have been drug prevention, health, nutrition and discipline. The number of children in attendance each time varies from 40 to 60.

In January, there was a bus accident near La Rumorosa, in which 22 people died, 14 of whom were from the valley of San Quintín. We were asked to minister at one of the funerals, where eight of the people who passed away were being remembered. The mayor and the local president of DIF (department of family services)

asked us if we could come serve specifically because they said we could share words of hope, since we know God and we could bring words of consolation and encouragement. This gave us the chance to share the love of Jesus and the hope we can find only in Him with many who would not normally be in church. We also were able to hand out many knitted hats and gloves, so thank you to all who continue to dedicate your time and efforts to providing those.

Last month we started doing services in homes. In order to reach more people who aren't coming to church, we decided it was time to find other ways to reach people. So every other Thursday we find families who are willing to host us in their homes, invite their neighbors and open their doors to others in their community. The people have responded and we have seen the hand of God moving in it. He has restored people, freed them and baptized them with His Holy Spirit. We have many now waiting to host us in their homes.



For those who did not know, we also have a soccer team that plays in Christian tournaments. Our goal is to build relationships to reach and

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.

- In celebration of Día del Niño (Children's Day, which is a major holiday here in Mexico), we will be organizing a children's camp taking place April 30 through May 2.
- Please be praying for Celso (a Bible student graduating this year) as he travels back to his village in southern Mexico this May in order to apply for his birth certificate and other needed I.D. that he never had the opportunity to obtain. After graduating in July, Celso plans to move back to his hometown and explore ministry opportunities in the area, which is dominated by tribal religions and traditionally quite hostile to Evangelicals.
- In February, the church celebrated its 35th anniversary. February marked my eighth year as pastor at Iglesia La Hermosa, as well. Please pray that God would continue to give me wisdom as I seek His will in my roles at the church and Bible school. I also would appreciate prayer for the other teachers at the Bible school, that the Lord would provide for their needs and bless them for their selfless service.
- Please pray for Ángel, a Bible student graduating this year, who will be directing our "Súper Soñadores" children's club. This month they plan to begin meeting weekly (rather than every other week).

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La Esperanza Bible School*

(Continued from first page)

minister to at-risk youth from the community, presenting them with the light of hope that only Christ can give.

On March 13, we were able to go participate in a health fair in Tijuana. Our focus was in the area of children's ministry, teaching at the health education stations in the morning and in the afternoon doing a special VBS program that included singing and a drama.



God is not only doing great things in our ministry, but also in my personal life, as well. In November, I had the privilege of sitting down with Mr. & Mrs. Mel Peabody (former president of Mexican Medical) and receiving their blessing to



pursue a relationship with their daughter, Michelle. Michelle and I have been praying about this for some time, and in December we formally announced our courtship to the congregation. Please pray for us as we make plans for our future together.

God has been good, that is the only thing I can say when I look at all He has done and continues to do. I thank you for your support and prayers.