

Happy 2014!

Dear Friends,

Although we have finished the Christmas season and entered a new year, I'd like to reflect on the angel's words about Jesus' birth. "... Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). We can rejoice that the birth, death, and resurrection of Jesus brought salvation to each of us. It is a joy not just for some people, but for **all** people. Serving with Mexican Medical has given me opportunities to see this "good news" shared with many. I have included stories and pictures from some of these experiences below.

"School Days, School Days..."

For a week in November, I got to help Mexican Medical missionaries Dave and Lynne Johnson provide special classes to elementary and middle school students near San Vicente. During the week, we shared in over 30 classrooms at six schools. The students learned about the importance of dental hygiene, exercise, good nutrition, drinking enough water, and making wise decisions. (I got to teach about drinking water and choosing healthy drinks.) After the classroom time, the students played games to reinforce the lessons.



Our ministry to the kids was primarily to share God's love through our actions, rather than words: smiling, giving them attention, and meeting their need for physical warmth through the gift of beautiful hats. There were several opportunities to display our faith to the teachers as well. At one school we ate lunch in the teachers' lounge and were able to pray out loud beforehand. I was asked by a teacher at another school if we were part of a church. Her question gave me an opening to share a little more about who we are and why we were there.

It was a privilege to also spend the week serving with the missionaries from La Esperanza and members of the Ramos family. (I shared about Leticia Ramos and her family in my previous newsletter.)



Photos:

1. La Esperanza missionary Theresa Lewis and me
2. Children play nutrition bingo
3. Girls practice jump roping
4. Boys peek through the dental game board
5. José Luis, Leticia, missionary Cris McCoy, and Marta Ramos take a break from teaching.

A Wonderful Opportunity

Since starting work at the Mexican Medical office last March, I have been given a wonderful opportunity—to coordinate the children’s ministry and health fair areas at our large medical outreaches (called brigadas.) Brigadas are held 3-5 times a year, usually in Tijuana, and draw hundreds of adults and children. These events provide people with not only much-needed health care, but also a chance to hear of God’s love for them.

Before coming to the Mexican Medical office, I had served in children’s ministry in many ways, and it was my desire to continue doing so; however, I did not know how that would work in an office setting. Little did I know that my co-worker, who had coordinated the brigada children’s health fairs for many years, was wanting to serve in a different area of ministry. So... that gave me an opportunity to fill her role at the children’s health fairs.

Over the past several months, I’ve gotten to take part in planning, preparing, assisting, and coordinating three brigadas. During a brigada, children participate in a health fair in the morning. The health fair has around ten stations that teach about good health/hygiene and spiritual health as well. The children also hear the story of Jesus and have an opportunity to receive Him as their Savior. In the afternoon, we provide a vacation-Bible-school-style program with songs, a Bible lesson, and a craft. I am thankful to be a part of this ministry and hope that it will continue to bless many children and families!



1. An afternoon VBS-style program
2. A pediatrician does a basic health exam
3. Children listen to a Bible story
4. Hand washing station



Praises

- I am praising God for the great generosity of those who have given toward my support. Looking back at 2013 showed that I received **90% of my annual goal!** What an incredible blessing (that is hard for me to wrap my mind around).
- I am thankful for the variety of people I have met and experiences I have had since coming to serve full-time with Mexican Medical.
- God has blessed me with some great friends to attend church and build relationships with. Praise God!

Looking Ahead:

The first brigada of 2014 will be held on March 29 in Tecate, Mexico (about 40 miles from San Diego).

Please pray for:

- Wisdom as I prepare for the children’s health fair activities.
- Energy and discernment at the brigada. There are usually lots of decisions to make during a very long day.
- The children and adults who attend—that they would know of God’s great love for them.