

2011 Southwest Hills Team to Cabo

When we think of Cabo San Lucas, at the tip of Baja, we often think of a vacation spot with rich tourists and fancy hotels, but when Dr. Alvaro Avila and his wife Soledad (missionaries with Mexican Medical Ministries) think of Cabo they think of all the opportunities to serve those in need in this special place. From June 26-July 1 a team of 17 from Southwest Hills Baptist Church of Beaverton, Oregon were privileged to help them meet those needs. Due to the downturn in the economy and less tourist trade many of the Mexican people in that area are no longer able to find work. Families are struggling to feed and care for their families and find affordable medical care. We also had the opportunity to work on Dr. Alvaro's clinic, pouring concrete for an outside waiting area and building an awning for protection from the sun.



We didn't need to go very far outside of Cabo to bring some much needed encouragement and hope. Along with Dr. Alvaro and Soledad, our team and friends from the local churches, we were able to provide some amazing services and activities, all free. Our outreaches included taking vital signs and giving medical consultations to approximately 180 people, 30 haircuts, eye exams and reading glasses to 150 elderly adults, a Health Fair/VBS for 210 children and kilos and kilos of fresh fruit given to everyone. At each location all of the participants received opportunities to not only see God's love for them, but also hear from everyone the wonderful gospel message. We know that 2 children and 4 adults prayed to receive Christ. While the number of locations and services we gave tell one story, the time we spent listening, caring and praying for the Mexican people tell another story. We cried along side many who are dealing with serious health issues and unbelievable family situations. We shared that these burdens were not ones they had to carry alone, that with the help of God and many willing members from the local church there was help for them.



In one location, called Las Palmas we held our outreach on the property of Agua Viva Centro de Rehabilitación, right in the center of the community. Before the event 5 small groups walked around the neighborhood explaining the different services and activities offered and inviting people to join us. The response was so positive. About 10 minutes after the groups left to invite, a lady pulled into the driveway of the rehab center calling for someone to come help her friend's baby. Her friend jumped out of the car crying and holding a baby that was hardly moving and had a high temperature. We rushed her into see Dr. Alvaro and he quickly realized the baby was dehydrated and needed immediate attention. Several ladies from the local church came into the consultation room to talk with the mom and pray with her. She had just left an abusive situation a few days before and had been living wherever she could. She had little money for food or medical care for her baby. Soledad ran to the store to buy some special formula and within a few minutes he was eating, more alert and out of danger. The mom was very appreciative and couldn't believe that just a few minutes earlier someone had walked by her, giving her the opportunity to get immediate care for her very sick baby. We know God's timing is always perfect and we were so grateful we were a part of His plan.

