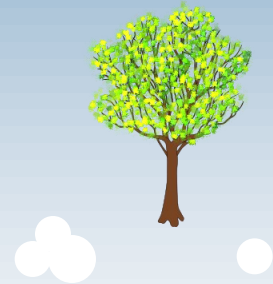


Mission Focus



Issue 11
Spring
April 2016
Serving in Mexico



San Felipe – In early March, I was afforded the honor of joining a team of 19 Americans from California and 19 Mexicans from Tijuana who traveled together to San Felipe to offer health fairs in two different communities. (San Felipe is located on the Sea of Cortez side of Baja about 5 hours south of the border.) In each location we partnered with several churches already existing there to bring free medical and spiritual care to the poor. We offered all levels of dental care (including one surgery), doctor consults, medicine, foot care, haircuts, reading glasses, blood pressure and sugar level checks. All these services gave us an opportunity to offer spiritual care through sharing the gospel and praying for both adults and children in a variety of venues. Between both days there were 111 adults receiving Jesus for the first time. We are praying for the pastors and their churches as they follow up with these new believers.



*A step up during
VBS craft time in
San Felipe.*



*Missionary Megan
sharing the love of Jesus
as she cares for children
of a young Mom
receiving services.*

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Six year-old Flor at VBS.



Flor's baptism.



Flor practicing guitar.



Flor preparing to preach God's Word.

Flor's Story - I want to share a part of Flor Ramos' story. In the Mexican Medical office, there is a picture hanging on the wall (taken in 2005) of kids in a small migrant camp at VBS waiting in line to wash their hands. Squished between her older brother and other kids is then 6-year-old Flor. She is one of 8 siblings and at that time they lived on the outskirts of Camp 12. Over the years, each one of the siblings has come to know Jesus, including their Mom.

I first came to know Flor when I returned full-time to Mexico in 2013. That summer she turned 15, so the 3 of us interns at the site then held a missionary quinceañera for her. We decorated a chair, gave gifts, then worshipped and prayed together in our little clinic kitchen. The following summer, in 2014, she gave the valedictorian speech at her 8th grade graduation. She was amazing in her fearlessness and pureness heart.

In Mexico, students have to pass an entrance exam to be accepted into the 9th grade. Even though she had studied hard, she did not pass this test. So she was made to sit out of school for a whole year not being able to continue the journey with her peers. But she made good use of her time by studying at home for the test the following year and coming to the Bible School two evenings a week for classes. At the end of the winter session I witnessed her preaching with such heart, it seems God has given her a gift to share His Word with the world. She also passed her test and had been accepted into one of the most challenging High Schools in the valley.

Flor started the school year on crutches. We were driving her as she began healing, but the director at school felt they were not equipped to follow doctor's orders allowing her to keep her foot elevated in class with only minimal standing on the crutches. So they sent her home. She tried to keep up with home studies but soon fell behind and the school told her to come back again the following year. (Now 2 years behind her peers.)

But perhaps after all God is just protecting her heart. She is so pure and often the exposure to what kids are doing in high school does not best serve her heart.

When I came to the valley in 2013 I brought my classical guitar with me knowing that it was to give away. During the fall season that year, she became one of my guitar students. I taught her what I could with my limited Spanish and gave the guitar to her and her family. She amazed me by continuing to use her time wisely practicing daily. I pray often for her to have a teacher that could help her grow, and it seems the Holy Spirit is answering this prayer by teaching her Himself. She is now leading worship at our weekly Bible study and for the youth group who meets each Saturday. Furthermore, she is writing worship songs. Flor also volunteers with us in many of the various ministries we participate in.

Flor's Story (cont.) - Flor's family now lives in a little blue house built in 2011 by a group of Canadians who specialize in home building. Their house is situated in the middle of an empty field with no running water or electricity. In 2015 our summer teams built a porch onto their house. I meet weekly with the Ramos' on this porch where we seek the Lord together. This is an amazing time of growth and fellowship for each of us.

I have been so blessed to watch this human being grow in the Lord that I wanted to share my joy with you all. I pray I have given you a glimpse into just one heart of the many beautiful hearts that I serve and work with here in Mexico where the love and hand of our Lord can be seen so plainly.



Camp Vergel children during VBS..



Spring Team – This spring we had a team join us from Oregon. There were 27 people ranging from youth to grandparents. It was amazing to see people who have been coming to our site for 20 years, bring their off-spring to carry on the rich heritage of the older generations. They had big open hearts as they served alongside of us. We had a full week, starting each day with devotions and work projects. We spent three afternoons in a migrant camp where we served 70 - 150 children each day with play time, worship, bible stories, dramas, and crafts (among other activities). We also showed film one night in this camp. Film is one of my favorite activities as we all huddle together out in the cold praying for the kids who are sitting on our laps and beside us.

Next we spent one day at a Senior Living Home, many of which have been abandoned by their families. We helped with work projects such as deep cleaning, laundry, painting and kitchen duties. We also provided personal one-on-one care to each senior by visiting, massaging hands and shoulders, playing balloon volleyball, doing crafts, singing worship and sharing a choreographed music piece.

We also hosted a youth night at our site for many youth in our village, playing volleyball, soccer, sharing a meal and God's word through worship, dramas and teaching.

I feel so rich to have worked alongside this team from Oregon as the light of Jesus just radiated from their hearts and faces.

Interactions during our visit to the Senior Home.



San Francisco Ministry – Flor, two of her sisters (Leti and Marta), and I have been so blessed to continue to support the teachers at the elementary school in the village of San Francisco. Most often we go and tutor students who are struggling, but we also get to participate in larger assemblies that the teachers host. They need our help with the activities teaching the students how to follow directions and to honor one another as they grow together. On our last visit, our little team led an assembly teaching the students how to make a rehydration drink from ingredients found in most Mexican homes and sharing the importance of tooth brushing and exercise. (Dehydration is the major cause of sickness and death in the camps.) Through your generous donations we were able to provide each student with a ditty bag containing a full array of toiletry items.

Happy recipient of a ditty bag.



Leti teaches oral rehydration.



Students in line for their ditty bag.

Praise & Prayer - I received a donation specifically for purchasing a vehicle. I am hoping to find a 2008 Ford Escape (Compact SUV) with low mileage. I would appreciate your prayers for the car hunt.

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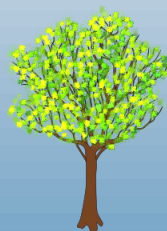
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Ps 46:10 Be still
and know
that I am God.

Bringing hope and healing
to Mexico.