

The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

The Ventura Lewis Family (Buky, Theresa, & Elena)

Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



Merry Christmas!

Christmas always seems to sneak up on us! It's always busy this time of year, so I was grateful that after decorating our Christmas tree last night, Buky and I were able to sit on the couch, enjoy the lights and reflect on God's faithfulness. Being from Oregon, it's a treat to be able to buy a real Christmas tree down here. I love the fragrance of the tree. It reminds me of 2 Corinthians 2:15 – "For we are to God the aroma of Christ." I pray that, just as a Christmas tree fills a house with a pleasant aroma, we would be a pleasant aroma of Christ to all who come in contact with us. We are so thankful for all of the groups that came to La Esperanza this year to help us spread the aroma of Christ throughout the San Quintín Valley! Thanks also to everyone for your prayers and financial support that help us to continue this ministry! We pray you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year with your loved ones close!



Elena's First Trip to Oregon

On August 25th, we celebrated Elena's first birthday, on our patio with my parents and the Ventura family. After that, we spent some time with my parents in Rosarito. After several days there, we said goodbye to Buky and headed north on Elena's first trip to Oregon. We are so grateful to my parents, who were willing to drive us all the way up and back! The trip went smoothly considering that we were travelling with a toddler. Elena started pointing out pine trees at our first Oregon rest stop. We spent the week at my parents' house in Newport. One of the highlights there was taking Elena to the library for storybook time. On the weekend, we went up to Portland so Elena could meet part of my family. They threw a birthday party for her. I loved getting to see her with her cousins. We weren't able to visit many of you this time because I didn't want to keep Elena



away from her daddy for too long, but we pray that Buky will be able to make the trip with us soon, so that we have more time to visit!

Left: Elena's first stop in Oregon and she's admiring the trees!

A 10th Anniversary Remembrance

September 8th, 2016, marked the 10th anniversary of the airplane crash in Ensenada that took the lives of three of our volunteers that were coming to serve at La Esperanza for a medical fly-in team. Bob McEneany, 57, was the pilot. He was always helping around the site with work projects. His last project was installing the light that shines on the group rooms, bathrooms, and fellowship hall. Dr. Merlin Larson, 76, was a dentist and had been serving the Mexican people for 15 years. I remember him working on patients in the clinic late into the night. Finally, Brianne Shelton, R.N., 25, was a nurse coming down to volunteer for the first time. We are grateful for their desire to serve God and the Mexican people. We will always remember their sacrifice. Our hearts go out to the families of Bob, Merlin, and Brianne and we ask God to continue to bring them healing and comfort.

Saturday Club in the Fall

At the end of September, we started up Saturday Kids' Club again. (We held a VBS with the kids this summer, but could not hold the club weekly with our busy schedule of ministry.) It has been great to see that the attendance has been consistent, with 30-35 kids each Saturday. The kids are enthusiastic to participate! Buky has been teaching about the kings and prophets of the Old Testament this fall. As the Baja Racing

teams came through our area in November, we also did a special racing-themed unit about how the Holy Spirit is our support and guide.



Above: Efraín and Miguel proudly show off their trophy truck coloring pages at Kids' Club.

At the end of October, we held a harvest party for around 85 children, and many parents were in attendance as well. There was a Bible character costume contest, songs and dance provided by the Bible students, and a Gospel teaching from Pastor Jr. The kids ate tamales and were super excited about their bags of candy!

We are thankful for the donation of a van and snacks for the Saturday Kids' Club this fall!



Above: The kids raise their PB&J to the sky. Other snacks included were pretzels, yogurt, and string cheese! What a treat for the kids!

Sweet Sixteen Dental Trip

On October 10th, 11th, and 12th we hosted dentist Dr. Miller from Columbia, Missouri, for the 16th time at Clínica La Esperanza. We are grateful for his faithfulness to this ministry and to serving the poor in Mexico. The team was made up of Staci Burch Hadden, Mackenzie Gaines, and Judy Glaister. We were also joined by Mexican Medical staff: dentist Dr. Bonnie Barajas, Amy Fuller (trip coordinator and cook), and Dave and Lynne Johnson, who brought the Mobile Dental Unit.

During the three-day outreach, the team tended to the dental needs of 85 people in three different locations (migrant camp Vergel, Church C.A.S.A. and our clinic). During the outreach, Maurilio and Refugio gave away Biblical materials to the patients and prayed with them. Three patients at Camp Vergel prayed to receive Christ and one patient at Church C.A.S.A. reconciled his life with the Lord.



Above: Columbia Center for Dentistry raised almost \$2,500 for Mexican Medical through Smiles for Life. Here is Dr. Miller and his team presenting the check.

Team from Tijuana

Dentist Dr. Bonnie Barajas was back November 18th-20th with a team of 20 from her church in Tijuana. We held a medical outreach at Templo Redentor with Pastor Pablo Hernández. Pastor Pablo has lung cancer and at times feels alone, so he was very encouraged that we wanted to hold an outreach at his church. At the outreach, we offered glucose and blood pressure checks, haircuts, foot care, manicures, reading glasses, and dental care. We also held a children's health fair in the afternoon. We had a team that was praying for patients and giving out Bibles.

It was precious to see hard-working indigenous women receiving foot care. I'm sure many of them had never had their feet massaged before. Jesus was a footwasher and asked us to do the same – of course that doesn't mean that we always literally will wash people's feet, but I think it's a powerful act of love when we get the opportunity to do so.



Above: The woman above is receiving some much-deserved luxury treatment at the foot care station.

¡Viva Mexico!

The church held a Noche Mexicana ("Mexican Night") on November 27th to celebrate Mexico's Revolution Day holiday. The church prepared

different Mexican dishes and built festive food stands. Pastor Jr. taught the Bible students some authentic Mexican dances for the program. He also directed a drama that portrays people from the different states of Mexico crying out to a sleeping bride (the church) to wake up and help free them from the bondage they are suffering. The event brought a lot of the village together, including many who don't normally attend church. It was a fun time of fellowship, but it also was a powerful time that God spoke to people's lives. We believe that this is another event that is drawing people from the community to church and ultimately to a relationship with Christ.



Left: Maura at the dessert stand. Below: The Bride (the church) is sleeping while the States of Mexico cry out for her to wake.



Please pray for Ángel's Recovery

On December 10th, we received the news that Ángel Monroy, a young man who has participated in the Saturday club, was found unconscious at his aunt's house. (His father, Abel, is a very good friend of Buky's.)

Ángel was taken to the hospital in Ensenada and was put into an induced coma due to seizures. He is off the respirator now, but is still in serious condition. He was taken to Tijuana on December 14th, where he is awaiting surgery. Please pray that God would bring healing to Ángel – that God would do a miracle to bring complete recovery. Also



please pray for peace for his family as well. Thanks to all who have been praying already after seeing my Facebook posts.

Left: Ángel gives Emanuel a piggy-back-ride at Saturday Club.

Please Pray For . . .

- Ángel's recovery and peace for his family
- Healing and peace for Pastor Pablo – the cancer has spread from his lungs to his spinal cord.
- The assignment of a date for Buky's appointment with immigration.

Contact Information for Theresa & Buky

Address for donations:
Mexican Medical
7850 Lester Ave.
Lemon Grove, CA 91945

(Checks made payable to: Mexican Medical, with indication that they are for Theresa Lewis.)

For correspondence:
include c/o Theresa Lewis
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Phone Numbers:

Mexican home phone:
011-52-616-166-7033

Theresa's Mexican cell phone:
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503-537-8373

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