

The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

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

Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



Summer Ministry

When I look back at the pictures from the summer, I'm amazed by how many lives we were able to touch with God's love through this ministry. The language barriers and cultural differences seem to fade away as our team members minister with us at VBS, youth ministry, film ministry, health fairs, and the Buen Samaritano Assisted Living Facility.

We are grateful for the eight teams that joined us this summer from the states of Alabama, California, Idaho, Maine, and Washington. These teams help the ministry happen by providing us with the man power to do outreaches and by providing money to help fund the ministry and building projects. We are also grateful for the Mexican volunteers from our church who are so faithful to serve with us. We can't leave out Cris McCoy (who has served with us at La Esperanza for four years) or Sydney Shamblin who came



as a first-time summer intern, who served with us on our staff and made it easier for me to balance ministry and caring for Elena.

Vacation Bible School

This summer we held 3-4 day VBS in nine different locations. Two of the VBS locations were new! Buky taught about the superheroes of the Bible – Joshua, Gideon, Samson, and David, but then of course emphasized that Jesus is the best superhero of them all!

The Rock Church from Idaho brought a 9-foot sheet with Goliath on it and the children took turns using their sling shots to hit him with marshmallows! They also brought The Shoe that Grows – a shoe from a non-profit organization in Idaho – for every child at VBS. It's a very durable shoe that can grow five sizes by using adjustable straps and snaps. The kids were thankful for the



Left: The Ventura-Lewis family serves together at VBS. Right: Little boy shows off his new pair of shoes that he received at VBS.

shoes, as well as the moms who are always looking for durable shoes for their children.

Leslie Brown, who came with Reel Life Int., is a part of the Safe Kids Organization. She taught the kids at VBS about fire, car, and pedestrian safety. The pedestrian safety information was especially useful for the kids because we have seen that many of the children are not mindful while playing around cars. The kids liked their reflective neon bracelets to be used while

walking at night. On the last day of VBS, we invited the parents to come for a special safety class. At the end of the class, we served everyone hot dogs. It was definitely a sweet time of fellowship.



Above: Team serves up hot dogs to the children and parents of San Francisco.

The Water Situation

Starting in August 2015, the water in our village was being turned off at night and at varying times of the day to conserve water and to track down leaky pipes. Then, at the beginning of June 2016, the water in our village was shut off completely due to the village well going

dry. The village is looking for a company to dig the well deeper, so the water is still not back on and there is no word as to when the water will return.

This posed a bit of a challenge once we started receiving teams this summer. We hired a truck to come fill our water tank and the teams learned to use buckets of water to flush toilets and take showers. This was a stretching experience for some and we are glad that the teams did not let this experience ruin their mission trip. In fact, there were team members who were actually glad to not have water, because it made them appreciate all of the conveniences they have at home.

Ministry at Buen Samaritano

The Rock, Real Life, and New Hope visited the 23 residents at Buen Samaritano Assisted Living Facility this summer. They do not get many visitors, so they enjoyed being surrounded by people willing to listen to their stories. It's always fun to see the teams connecting with the seniors through balloon volleyball and crafts. One of the teams had the opportunity to wash the residents' feet. It took some people out of their comfort zones, but it was so precious to see the residents receive this gift of love. We also had two massage therapists come and treat some of the people there. The directors, Juan and Lupita, are always so grateful for the extra help with

Right: Guillermo and a team member from Real Life in Chelan, WA, wear their superhero masks.



general cleaning and cooking, but they also appreciate our spiritual presence as well. We always spend time singing worship music with everyone there and praying for them. Juan says that the most peaceful nights at



Above: Members from New Hope Community Church in Chula Vista wash this resident's feet and listen to her stories.

Buen Samaritano are the nights after a team has been there to minister during the day. Praise God!

Youth Center Roof

We are so grateful to the teams for putting so much effort into the construction of the youth center roof! People of all ages and abilities were able to help in one way or another, whether it was in the construction of the trusses, painting them or moving them. In July with Crossroads Church, we were able to rent a crane to help lift the trusses up on the roof. The local man who operated the crane put in a long day to help us, and then



gave us a big discount when he realized our project was to

benefit the youth of the community. Later teams worked on putting on the metal roofing. Buky and his crew hope to finish the last bit of the roof this fall so that we can begin work on pouring the cement floor.

Youth Outreach

We held six youth outreaches at the site this summer with sports, food (hot dogs and fresh fish), and ministry time. The teams participated in various ways – playing sports, serving food, some sharing music and others sharing their testimonies. It was great to see the American youth and Mexican youth worshipping together.

One meeting was more sobering. Antonio, a 25-year-old from the village, was found dead in a community further north. He had been mixing with the wrong crowd. There were younger boys in our community who knew him and took the news pretty hard. That night, the youth had a lot of questions about life after death and it provided an opportunity to share about Jesus' salvation. We pray that more youth from our community will be drawn to Jesus Christ.

God Uses Children

We had just arrived at a VBS in Pancho Villa with Reel Life and were beginning play time, when one of the mothers from the team approached me with her daughter who needed to use the bathroom. The mother was a bit frustrated with her daughter for not using the bathroom beforehand. Across the street at the Catholic church, there was a rundown outhouse, but then I saw the house of Lupe, one of the women who used to attend our church. When we went to Lupe's house, she was more than

happy to let the little girl use her bathroom. As we waited, Lupe began to share with us about her health problems, her loneliness and the hurt she felt after losing two of her loved ones. I was able to encourage her and invite her to church. The next day, another girl on the team needed a bathroom and I knew right where to take her! Team members were able to come with me that day to pray and encourage Lupe. The following day, Cris McCoy went over to pray for her some more. Lupe felt so encouraged and loved by God during those visits, and we probably would have never gone if God hadn't used two little girls that needed to use the bathroom.

Community Outreach

Some of the teams visited families in our village and prayed for them. Some teams gave out plates of cookies and another team gave out bags of fish. One woman was so grateful to receive the fish because her refrigerator had been empty. Many of the families in our village have gone through difficult trials, and it was obvious that the families were deeply moved by the prayers, love and support that the teams showed them. It helped them to know that God cares for them and that they are not alone.

At the end of July, the team from Fair Oaks Presbyterian joined our church for a prayer march around the community. They prayed at the four corners of the village, in front of the school, and out towards the mountains that overlook the village where a satanic altar had been found. One family ended up joining the march and the grandmother asked for prayer for healing of her back. There was such a sense of unity between the

American church and Mexican church as they asked God to bless our village. We believe that God wants to heal and restore families in our village and we know that corporate prayer is a step in the right direction.



Above: Team and church pray together for a woman who asked for prayer for her back during the prayer march in the community.

Please Pray For . . .

- **Water issues to be resolved in the village**
- **Hearts of the children at Saturday Club to be sensitive to the word of God**
- **Workers to finish youth center**
- **We have heard from immigration recently, but we still are waiting for them to assign us a date for Buky's appointment.**

**Upcoming Team Ministry:
- Templo de Alabanza: Nov. 18th & 19th**

Contact Information for Theresa & Buky	
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