

Mission Focus



Issue 15
Spring/Summer
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Serving in Mexico

Have I thanked the Lord for my affliction today?

My friend Dr. Dave responded to the story of my knee issues by telling me his own story of living with pain. He told me of a time he was being prayed for and was asked if he had thanked the Lord for his affliction. This cut right to my heart. And for the first time I felt in my heart actual thanks and gratitude that I can offer to the Lord for this affliction.

This is where the rubber meets the road for me. Am I believing and trusting Jesus to work everything out for my good? I choose to thank Him in all circumstances!



Prayer and Praises

In May I had my first appointment with UCSD Ortho. I received a cortisone shot, which completely relieved the pain in my knee. What a nice break that was! It lasted about 13 days and then began to wear off. In late June and early July I returned for a series of gel shots. This has helped in many ways. I even went for a 1.5 mile walk, which was the first in 7 months. My how I was praising Jesus every step of the way! My heart was overflowing with gratitude. As I write this the pain has begun to return the last couple of days. I still have a couple of more weeks to wait to see if this will be a viable solution. I continue to keep my heart and eyes fixed on the author and perfecter of my faith. I will yet trust Him in this! Thank you Jesus, even for affliction, because you use it all for our good!

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Where am I seeing the face of Jesus?



Ensenada Medical Brigada

I worked in the podiatry booth translating for the nurses providing care. I was amazed at the transformation of people's feet. Meka and Marlana were so skilled and caring. It was an honor to translate for them. I was able to pray for several patients while they received care. Lord I pray that the external transformation of feet represented an internal transformation by being loved well.

Thank you Papa for giving me a job to do that provided an opportunity for me to shine you!

After our patients were finished we walked them over to the Prayer Booth. The Prayer Booth was made up of 50 Chaplains, both men and women. These Chaplains were dressed in uniforms. They resembled police or agents, complete with boots, cap and badge. They were prayer warriors. The name of their group was 'Agentes de Capellano' which was described to me as meaning, they were taking off their robe, their cape, their covering and placing it over another (the person they were praying for).

This reminded me of a vision I had during worship many years ago. I saw in my mind's eye many people who were hurting, broken, naked, needy. Each one was bent low to the ground. There was a gentle rain falling over them. Believers began to go outside (the church building) to these, and as a believer approached a hurting one they took off their robe (colored and beautiful) and placed it on the one hunched low to the ground. That person would rise healed and whole. And a new robe would appear on the believer who had given their robe away in this manner. The new robe would begin as a soft glowing cream or white.

I understood this to mean that the robe represented what Christ freely placed on us is to be given away. This covering He gives us can be given away through ministry, loving and caring for others.

I saw the face of Jesus in the nurses doing foot care. I saw the face of Jesus in the prayer warriors. I saw the face of Jesus in the youth of the local Mexican church who came to help me with the translation.



*Nurses blessing the lives
of the poor.*

Transformed feet!



Medical Students and Professionals to La Esperanza

We had a team of nursing students come from a *secular* college in Bakersfield, SUB. They were led by their clinical professor who is a believer. We held health fairs in 3 different locations for both the adults and children. We also had a doctor from Mexico and a PA from the US join us. The Physician's Assistant came from my church, Inland Vineyard Fellowship in Corona, CA. This was the first time someone from my church has been able to join me at La Esperanza. It was such a joy for me to have her come and serve those that I love so deeply here. In this way, my friend Jennifer Zamora PA, brought a double blessing as she ministered.

While we are Mexican Medical Ministries and we want to provide the best medical care we can, free of charge, medicine is also our open door. It is medicine that brings many of the lost to us and gives us a chance to love well and share Jesus.

At the end of the children's health fair, which is mainly education through games and sharing the gospel, we give each child a small ditty bag with hygiene items. Though we don't often do give-aways, this time we offered the kids a choice. They were able to choose either a tee-shirt, dress or a pair of shoes. It was so fun to see their little faces light up with the joy of being able to have a choice. Thank you to all of you who made these donations possible.

I saw the face of Jesus in the quality of care provided by the medical team. I saw the face of Jesus in the smiles and lit up eyes of the children. I felt the love of Jesus as we spent time together seeking His face.



PA, Jennifer Zamora shining Jesus!



*God's light shining through
as Lety Ramos prays.*

Dress and gift bag in hand.



Waiting for his turn to choose.



Fitted for his new tee-shirt.

Elderly Home Visit

During our visit to a home of abandoned elderly, I really connected with one of the women there named Luciana. She was full of anxiety and despair. I just wanted to love on her. I wanted her to experience the love and peace of Jesus. I sat with her for most of the day, praying for her and crying with her. She kept asking where her son Patricio (Patrick) had gone. She longed for him. I could feel her hurting heart.

She also seemed very uncomfortable in the wheelchair that she was strapped into. I asked the owner if she could walk and he said 'yes'. So I asked if the nurse could unstrap her so that we could walk with her for some exercise. He was reluctant to do so as she had fallen before, but he agreed and came and unstrapped her. She stood up with Florinda and I on each side of her. She was relieved to be free, but told us that she was afraid to walk, so she sat back down. This often happens when the elderly are put in restraints to keep them safe. I assured the owner that we would stay with her and not leave her without alerting a caregiver.

As our visit time there was closing, we got the caregiver to come and make her 'safe' again. She used a long bathrobe tie and proceeded to tie Luciana to the chair. The restraint was so tight it was cutting across her feeble thighs and hips. The anger in me rose up at this treatment. I loosened the restraints as best as I could, so they were not cutting into her yet keeping her 'safe'. Then I sat at her feet and cried as I poured my concerns out to the Lord. How is it that humans can treat others this way? I began to judge the owner and the caregiver who tended to her. I sat with Jesus until the anger left me and I could honestly, with some measure, bless them, hoping by loving them they would be encouraged to be better. For we were there to bless the caregivers as well as those being cared for.

I had some amazingly tender moments with Luciana. I wanted her to experience someone being fully present with her. I could see her respond to it. Yet as we got up to leave she began again to anxiously repeat her longing for her son and her desire to go with us. I wanted to bring her home for a few days, yet knowing this wasn't possible broke my heart.

I saw the face of Jesus in Luciana's tender tears. I felt the Presence of Jesus as we sat together, even through the anxiety and despair she displayed. I wondered if she was being tormented by something dark or if it was a choice to stay in such a deprived state. But in it all, I believe that Jesus has her in his hands, close to his heart! Thank you Jesus.

Psalm 100:4

Enter His gates with thanksgiving, into His courts with praise;

Give thanks to Him and praise His name!

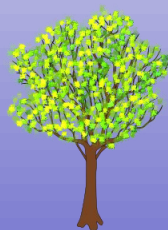
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Ps 46:10 Be still
and know
that I am God.



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to Mexico.***