

July 2017

The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

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

Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



“Firsts” and Ministry with Elena

It’s hard to believe that Elena is 22 months old now! She is growing so fast and is always on the move! We found that Buky and I were having trouble getting all of our work done and realized that we needed help with Elena. This February, we were so grateful that Marta Ramos, a young woman who volunteers with us in the ministry, was willing to be Elena’s nanny. She has been helping us care for Elena during the week so that Buky and I can continue our work with the ministry.

It has been amazing how Elena’s “firsts” have been interwoven with ministry. We took Elena for her first haircut on February 23rd. After Elena’s haircut, Marta was there to watch Elena for us while we visited. Buky was getting his haircut and was able to encourage our beautician,

Mirna, who was taking care of her mother who was battling with cancer. I was downstairs visiting with Mirna’s mother, Socorrito. We talked, I sang some worship songs to her, and she was so delighted to see Elena. She called us the “Teresitas.”

Before we left, Buky and I prayed for Socorrito and said goodbye. It was at that moment that Elena decided to walk on her own for the first time! She started running around Mirna’s back yard. It was a joyful moment that we shared with Mirna and Marta. That was the last time we visited Socorrito. She passed away a month later, but I never will forget how special it was that Elena began to walk at the end of our last visit with her.



Above: The Ventura Lewis family. It truly is a blessing to serve together as a family.

Recovery for Ángel

Thank you to everyone who has been praying for Ángel Monroy, a 15 year old who participated in our Saturday Club, as he recovers from suffering an aneurysm in December. When we first visited him in February, he was laying on a hospital bed in his living room. His right side was paralyzed and he was being fed through a tube. He couldn’t talk, but it seemed like he could hear us and understand us. He played with the helium balloon we brought him and, just like an average teenage boy, he was pushing away his little sister who kept trying to give him hugs.



Clockwise from upper left: Mirna gives Elena her first haircut; Elena begins to walk on her own for the first time; Our dear friend, Socorro, attending Elena’s baby shower almost two years ago.

About a month ago, I was amazed to see Ángel walking home from church with help from his mother! Soon after, I heard that Ángel could eat again, so I whipped up a couple of batches of waffle batter, grabbed my waffle iron and we were off to visit Ángel. Whenever his family used to visit us, we would always eat waffles together, so this was time to celebrate! Ángel loved the waffles, as did the rest of his family!

Ángel is now walking, eating, and able to use the bathroom. He can communicate with gestures. He likes to say No! Ángel's father,



Above: What a blessing to see Ángel smile.

Abel, says that they are in the process of retraining Ángel to clear his plate when he is done eating and to throw away the peel after eating a banana. So, he is making steps of progress. We praise God for Ángel's life and ask that you would continue to pray for him in this process of recovery.

Fixing Up Sunday School Rooms

One of the projects we have been working on since the fall is refurbishing the two Sunday school classrooms and nursery. We wanted these areas to be welcoming places where the children of our community can learn about Jesus. In the past, the rooms were dark, had cement floors and broken windows, and, due to leaks in the roof, the paint jobs always ended up getting ruined.

We were able to repair the roofs, repaint, tile the floors, buy new windows, and fix the lights. We also were able to purchase classroom

furniture and toys in various second-hand stores from San Quintín to Ensenada! Now the rooms are bright, clean, and have bulletin boards decorated with various Biblical themes! The Sunday school teachers tell me that the children are excited to come to Sunday school and have been paying more attention in their new classrooms.

I have also been helping train the younger Sunday school teachers. They want to work with the children, but need some guidance. So we have met together and have talked about ways that they can improve.



Above: Raquel teaches the children a Bible story in their refurbished classroom.

The Word of God in the Nursery

I have had the joy to teach in the nursery with Elena. On Sunday mornings, we have had up to seven children. I have been finding teaching and craft ideas online to help keep the attention of this age group. I tell each child that Jesus loves them. I hold up a mirror for them and tell them that they are special to God. These words are so important for them to hear. We also pass around Bibles and sing a song about it being the word of God. We have been studying Noah and we made arks yesterday with construction paper and decorated them with animal stickers. It has been a privilege to teach this age group.

Right: My niece, Aly, helps me teach the nursery Sunday school class.



Saturday Club Fun!

We had a slow start in Saturday Club at the beginning of the year due to being rained out a few times and also due to a gasoline strike (We weren't able to get gas for the van to pick up the children.) Since then, we have met quite consistently and have held two special events for the children. For spring break/Easter vacation, we served a pancake breakfast and for Children's Day at the end of April we served spaghetti. We had around 50 children in attendance at each event. The children played games like musical chairs and had a hula hoop contest. The most important thing is that they are hearing the word of God and memorizing it.

Recently, we heard that there were some boys who didn't want to go with their parents on a trip to Tijuana because they didn't want to miss club.



Above: The children enjoy their spaghetti at club.

One boy, Javier, moved to mainland Mexico this last year and he found me on Facebook. I told him, "Please don't forget what you learned with us at Saturday Club" and he responded, "How could I ever forget the wonderful

things you taught me at Club?" We are so grateful that the children love to come and that the word of God is being planted in their hearts.



Left: Coco, Ringuis, and the older girls of club lead the songs for the rest of the kids to follow along.



Above: Thanks to a donation of shirts, we were able to bless each child on Children's Day with a new shirt!

Youth Sport Area

Another project that was completed this spring is the youth sport area. The walls and fencing are complete. We have had men, teenagers, and boys coming during the week to play soccer. One night we took the players cookies and another night we gave them water bottles.

Sutherlin Family Church from Oregon helped us to hold a youth night this March. When it was time to serve the hot dogs, some of the teenagers were starting to leave. Esteban, Buky's brother-in-law, played a key role in encouraging the youth to come back and eat and to go into church to hear the Gospel message. The amazing thing was that Esteban went in to hear the message as well, and hadn't attended a "service" in the church since he was dating Buky's sister almost 17 years ago! We praise God for how He is touching lives through the youth sport area.



Left: Some of the youth that have been coming to play soccer at our new youth sport area.



Left:
The
guys
gather
to
watch
a
soccer
match.

Margarita at Buen Samaritano

We visited the Buen Samaritano (Good Samaritan) assisted living facility this spring with Sutherlin Family Church. Director Juan and his wife, Lupe, always talk about how much they appreciate the teams, especially when they worship with the residents. On this particular visit, Juan and Lupita shared with me about the passing of a resident named Margarita.

There was a team visiting that day and they were singing worship songs with the residents. Margarita was tired and talked about going back to her room to lie down, but she decided she would stay a little longer. When the team finished singing the worship song “Alabaré,” Juan went to check on her and realized that she had passed while they were all singing praises.

The hardest thing about ministering in this place, is that we go back and find out that our friends are gone, but we are happy too, to know they are with the Lord. What a way to leave this Earth – praising our Lord! Just a minute or so after Juan finished telling me about Margarita, the team that had taken the trash to the dump pulled up and one of the boys was singing “Alabaré” as loud as he could. It gave me goose bumps to hear the song, because it felt

like God was there saying, “Yes, Margarita is with me.”



Above: Karie, a team member from Idaho, shares a sweet moment with Margarita last summer.

Pastor Pablo’s Legacy

Pastor Pablo, the pastor with cancer that we shared about in our last newsletter, went to be with the Lord in April. Buky and the band were in charge of the music at one of his funeral services. The service lasted five hours, as many pastors and members of his congregation and community came to honor him and share how he had made an impact on their lives.

A group of pastors were united by praying and fasting for Pastor Pablo and now that he is gone, they continue to pray and fast together in other churches around the valley. We have heard that there have been as many as 100 adults and youth participating in these events!

Upcoming Team Ministry:

- July 1 - 8: Crossroads - Ridgecrest, CA
- July 9 - 15: Reel Life - Birmingham, AL
- July 17 - 19: VBS in village with our staff
- July 29 - August 5: FOPC - Fair Oaks, CA

Please Pray For . . .

- A fruitful summer of ministry
- Unity for our team as we minister together
- Strength and refreshment along the way

Contact Information for Theresa & Buky

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