

# missions *focus*

Issue 16  
September 2017



## *A look ahead....* **Cuba**

I have been invited to join a Mexican Medical Ministries team going to Cuba for 10 days in early December. This is an especially pivotal time in Cuba's history — and in the spiritual life of its people. Decades of Communist-promoted atheism have left the country with a great spiritual void, which many have tried to fill with *santería* (African religions mixed with Catholicism). This hunger for spiritual things is now drawing many Cubans to Christ, and the evangelical church is growing.

With the ground ripe for harvest, our main focus will be joining a local pastor doing home visits in the community to share the gospel, pray for members of each household and connect them to the local church. We will also be hosting a health fair for kids and ministering to the elderly in the community through meals and social activities. As basic health items are often prohibitively expensive or simply not available in Cuba, we will be carrying these items into the country to distribute at these events through the local church. Helping to meet that need will be another way to tangibly share Christ's love.

I made a list of reasons for going and not going to Cuba. The list for going was long, including my excited heart to minister to people in their homes through prayer, pastors asking for workers to help with the harvest and the opportunity to continue growing in language skills in a new culture. There were only 2 reasons for not going to Cuba. They were concerns of provision regarding my knee issue and finances. After prayerfully considering this invitation, I believe the Lord has said "Yes!" He is calling me to step out into what seems impossible and trust Him and watch what He will do. I will need to raise support in the amount of \$1,100. I am asking if you would prayerfully consider joining me through financial and/or prayer support.

### *Highlights in this issue:*

*Cuba*

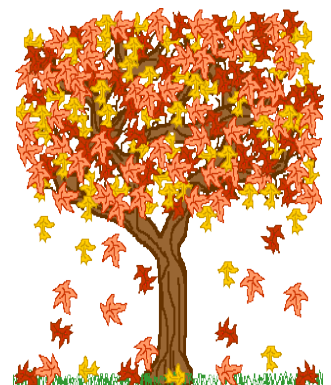
*Summer Ministry*

*Work Projects*

*Playground Equipment*

*Celebration*

*From My Journal...*



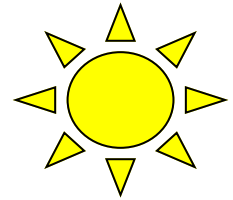
If you would like to give financially for this trip: Please make your check payable to **Mexican Medical Ministries** with a memo saying **Cuba – Cris McCoy** and mail to **7850 Lester Ave, Lemon Grove, CA 91945**. You will receive a tax-deductible receipt.

(or you may call the office at **(619) 463– 4777** for information on other methods of giving)



*A look back...*

## Summer Ministries



Alabama team praying for a family outside their home.

**\*Prayer teams/translation** I had the privilege to lead several teams out into the community to pray for those the Lord led us to and to translate for the teams. On one occasion we went to the local hospital, and while some of the team walked around the outside of the facility praying, some of us went inside. We started in the waiting room by sitting with those who were there and starting up conversations, which eventually led us to praying for many. Later, I led another team back to where the patients were. There was only one patient there, who had just had surgery. She is a diabetic and had been working in her garden when she stepped on a nail that pierced through her foot. With no feeling in her feet, she did not even realize it until she went into her house and could hear a clanking noise every time she stepped. Her surgery went well. The Lord saved her toes and foot and she was healing well. We prayed for her and her family who were there visiting. Next, we asked the nursing staff if we could pray for them. They were overjoyed to receive prayer and all gathered together. Wow, the light of heaven was shining on us as we prayed. Finally, the nurses asked us to pray for the hospital administration, so they took us to the back office. As we prayed, something heavy lifted off.

On another occasion, we went to my beloved San Francisco village. The kids were still in school and most adults were out working. However, there was one house that I have always been drawn to yet never invited into, but on this day the grandma came out to greet us. She invited us into her yard to meet her family. She and another family member really wanted prayer, so we gathered around them, laying hands on them, and prayed. It was beautiful to see their countenances change.

**\*VBS** This year Pastor Rafa told the Gospel stories through narrated dramas. It was wonderfully fun for all of us, both the kids listening and watching, and the youth who are playing the parts.



**\*Baptisms** This year we were able to celebrate several team members making decisions to publicly commit to following Jesus. These baptisms took place a mile from our site in the Pacific Ocean. What a joy to witness!



### **\*Work Projects**

Youth Center There has been great progress on the youth center, and the floor and wiring are now complete. We were able to hold 3 days of Kid's Club VBS inside, which was especially meaningful, as those children will one day be the youth making use of the Center.

Also, the suspended ceiling was purchased and installed by our last group of the summer, Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church.

Outdoor Sports Court had soccer goals installed and is getting lots of use with the local and church youth.

Playground Equipment Little Nueva Odisea has for many years had a park in the center of our village, but it does not get used much. This year the government has agreed to put in a soccer field so we sent teams over to remove trash and shrubs to prepare the ground. Play equipment has also been set up for both small children and older children. Our teams also installed tire obstacle courses and painted them. The children in the village are really excited about playing there. The funds for all the play equipment was provided by the Ridgecrest team.

Celebration Once all the play equipment was finished being installed, we hosted a party for the village to celebrate. We served hotdogs and horchata, and played music. It was amazing to see so many of the families from the village walking together on the dirt roads to the celebration. It was a wonderful night. We played volleyball, danced and visited, while the kids played on the new equipment— swings, ladders, slides, teeter-totters and obstacle courses.



Primary School We were able to help the local school paint their outdoor gathering area before their graduation ceremonies, and they were so grateful. We also made breakfast for all the kids in school and went over to serve them. It was a really fun day and great way to bless the local community.

Sunday School Rooms Finishing touches are being made to the Sunday School Rooms. The nursery has a Noah's Ark mural and one of the Sunday School rooms has a Fruit of the Spirit tree mural.





Diana's Home The mother of two of our Kid's Club kids had become homeless and they had moved into a dilapidated shack. We were able to construct a little wooden house, paint it and put roofing on the shed roof. They still need a front door and windows installed. Our teams also helped lay the foundation for their future home right next to the little wooden house. Thankfully, they now have a safe, dry place to stay while they work for funds to complete their future home.



### *From my journal...*

This morning as I sat in church struggling to understand the message in Spanish, I began to question the Lord if I still belong here. Do I keep pressing in to learning the language or would I be a better servant back in the US? Then a little girl began coughing.... Her cough was very congested... I knew I wanted to pray for her... She coughed and coughed and coughed. Her lungs were so congested and you could tell she was sick. Several women from the church turned around and said something to the mother. It was a family that I had not seen at church before. I asked the Lord to open an opportunity for me to pray for her and then began to pray for her where I sat. I knew Jesus wanted to heal her. But I sensed that when I prayed she might sound worse before she got better. Eventually the mother took the little girl outside. I followed them out and asked the mom if I could pray for her little girl. She said yes. Then I asked the little girl if I could lay my hands on her back and chest and pray for her and she also said yes. I laid my hands on little Daniela and began to pray. We all felt the peace of Jesus come. When I was done praying she began to cough and we knew that something was coming up. She began to vomit on the sidewalk outside of church. I assured the mom that it was okay and I would clean it up. She vomited again. When she was done her mom took her to the bathroom while I cleaned the sidewalk. I saw them again at the end of the service. Little Daniela was smiling at me from inside the van that was to take her family home. She was full of life and play, no longer sick. Her mom was smiling at me as well. That was so sweet of Jesus to let me be part of how He wanted to heal Daniela. I guess I have my answer.

(Several weeks later, both her parents would receive Jesus into their hearts and make a public confession for Christ through baptism!)



***Vulnerability opens us up to have a richer experience!***