

The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

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

Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



A Wonderful Harvest!

We arrived back at La Esperanza at the beginning of June, just in time for summer ministry (after a successful knee surgery for Theresa in May). Five groups joined us this summer. They were from Alabama, California, Idaho, and Oregon. We were able to hold five weeks of VBS in different communities.

What a wonderful harvest! Hearts were changed this summer! God does so much in just one week of ministry, that we will be sharing stories of the summer throughout several updates this fall.

At the end of the summer, we were so blessed to visit friends at Crossroads Community Church in Ridgecrest, CA, and The Bridge in Reno, NV. We look forward to visiting more churches in Idaho and Montana this September.

I (Theresa) have been having some back problems this August, but after seeing the doctor, and feeling improvements, we have decided to move forward with our planned visits.

Saturday Club Expands

After arriving back to La Esperanza, we heard that a young woman from our

church and Bible school, Raquel, was following our model of Saturday club and had begun a club in her community, Casitas “The Little Houses”! Raquel grew up attending our summer VBS programs, so it is so encouraging to see her taking the initiative! She had 50 children attend the first time.

We hadn’t held VBS in Casitas for many years, but once we heard that Raquel was ministering there, we decided that it would be a great location to hold VBS! We held VBS in the community soccer field. We weren’t sure how many kids were going to show up, but by the end of the week we had 90 kids attending!

Please pray that God would give Raquel the perseverance and resources she needs to continue to minister to the children of Casitas through Saturday Club.



Left: The kids show off their crafts and oranges on the last day of VBS in Casitas.

Pancakes at the Grade School

We love to be able to bless the local grade school and build relationships with the teachers

there. Many of the children from our Saturday Kids' Club also attend. Our ministry helped with renovations of the cafeteria several years ago, and then the government finished the renovations and provided a feeding program where the children are served two meals a day.

Our first team, Church of the Highlands from Alabama, served a pancake and sausage breakfast to the children on the last week of school. After breakfast, the team played with the children on the playground, taught them handclapping games, and played soccer. The children were happy to have new friends to play with and gave us so many hugs that it was hard to leave.

We also were able to bless the school by helping them prepare for their graduation. Last summer, a team painted



Above: Jessi, Leticia, and Amy finished the sign for the grade school in time for graduation. Left: Patricia plays on the seesaws with one of the children after the team served a pancake breakfast at the grade school.

the main wall for the ceremony. This year the lettering of the school name was peeling off so, fortunately, we found some people in our group with the talent to finish the lettering just in time for the graduation ceremony. The teachers were so thankful for the help!

Cookie Ministry!

Some teams help us bless families in the community with house visits. I led a group to visit the home of Silvia and her children, Samantha and Moisés, who attend our Saturday club. The team brought them cookies. We asked Silvia if we could pray for her and her family. She agreed and we surrounded her



Moisés



Samantha

and prayed. She began to cry as she became overwhelmed by the love of God. She would not let us leave her house without taking fish that her husband had caught. She was thankful for her new friends and the cookies! We continue to pray that God would touch Silvia's life.

Spiritual Hunger at Film Ministry

We praise God for favor in the migrant camp, Camp Vergel! This summer some of the leadership in the migrant camp changed. They gladly renewed our annual permission to enter the camp and gave us more freedom to minister than we have had in years past.

Instead of using the film truck, we built a portable screen that we set up next to the gazebo, which gets us closer to the



Above: Pastor Jr. prays for men at film ministry.

workers' homes. We were in awe all summer to see so many migrant workers from southern Mexico coming forward for prayer, for Bibles, and to receive Christ.

Projects Around the Base

The church roof had been leaking, and so, since it needed to be replaced, the church decided to build the roof higher. A team from Church of the Highlands worked hard to take down the old trusses. Although it was a bit shocking to see our church without a roof, we believe that it will be even better than before! Please pray for the men of our church who are determined to complete this project.

For now the youth center is being used as our sanctuary while the construction of the church is completed. We are looking forward to the day the church has its new roof and the youth center can serve its function.

This team also helped us take down the old roofing off of the Bible school, which was

also leaking, and helped us install more durable metal roofing. Also, after many years, the courtyard got a makeover with new volcanic rock, which the team helped us to spread. We are so grateful to the teams that help us complete these important projects!



Upper left (going clockwise): Craig Libby and Jeff Fields work on the Bible school roof; Renovations on our church; and Buky shares in the youth center about the indigenous culture.

Doctors Who Were Made For This

We were joined by LaDonna, a doctor of internal medicine, and Courtney, a podiatrist, our first week of ministry this summer. We were able to hold free consults at our clinic and at the clinic in Casitas where we held VBS.



Many of the patients were farm workers who are on their feet all day, so I can just imagine the relief they felt to have Courtney working on

Left: Courtney cares for one of her patients.

their feet. It was humbling to see her sit and work on her patients' feet with pumice, wearing a shirt that says, "I was made for this." She reminded me of Jesus and I was grateful for her example of service.

Gustavo and Cecilia

Cecilia and Gustavo began attending our church four years ago after their 12-year old son Luis, a boy who faithfully attended our Saturday Club, drowned. Cecilia called for us in her time of need and we had the honor of ministering to her and sharing with the whole village about the faith of her little boy.

Although Gustavo didn't attend church regularly at first, over time God has been drawing his heart. Several of our teams have visited them and prayed for them over the years. One team last fall left money for groceries for their family. When we delivered the food, we had no idea that the family's cupboards and refrigerator were empty. Cecilia told Gustavo that the Lord would provide and He did! This provision of food stirred Gustavo's faith and brought him to believe that God cared for the well-being of his family. Now he attends church

regularly with a new enthusiasm and even helped us this summer with work projects.

Gustavo and Cecilia asked us to



Left: Gustavo and Cecilia take their wedding vows this last spring.

be witnesses at their civil wedding last fall. They also wanted us to be a part of their church wedding in the spring. They even took their wedding vows exactly four years to the day after burying Luis. We were so honored to be a part of these special events and we praise God for His healing power and restoration in the lives of this family!

If that wasn't enough, Cecilia's faith and growth have been such an encouragement to me. This summer, Cecilia took a long bus ride to mainland Mexico to see her grandmother who was dying of cancer. Cecilia shared the Gospel with her grandmother and she accepted Jesus as her Savior, just a day or so before she died. It was amazing to witness Cecilia's boldness and hear her testify of what God had done!

Upcoming Team Ministry: October 15th-18th: Dr. Miller dental team & Sutherlin Family Church

Please Pray For . . .

- **Safety, good health, and great fellowship as we travel through Idaho and Montana to visit churches in September.**
- **Our team at La Esperanza that continues to minister.**

Contact Information for Theresa & Buky

Address for donations: Mexican Medical 7850 Lester Ave. Lemon Grove, CA 91945	Phone Numbers: Theresa's Mexican cell phone: 011-521-616-111-6394
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