

The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

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

Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



Spreading Joy this Christmas!

This month we took Elena to Shore Acres Park near Coos Bay, Oregon, to see the Christmas lights. While we were there, we saw a choir perform. After one of the songs, Elena began to jump up and down shouting, “Yay! I’m ready for Christmas!” She not only had the attention of the crowd, but the choir and choir director as well. Everyone was smiling! Elena was spreading joy! There is nothing quite like the delight of children at Christmas.

Are you ready for Christmas? I hardly ever feel ready during this busy time of year. However, let us be filled with infectious joy, like Elena, as we prepare our hearts to reflect on the greatest gift of all: the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ! We are so thankful to all of you for your love and support! God bless you and your family this Christmas!



Left: Elena helps spread joy with the Christmas choir.

Trip to Idaho & Montana

In September, we visited churches in Idaho and Montana. It was a blessing to

reconnect with friends that had served with us down at La Esperanza and to meet new friends along the way. While we were in Helena, MT, we stayed with Jack and Betty McLaughlin, who served at La Esperanza for fourteen years during the winter months helping dental patients. It had always been a dream of theirs to have a visitor come from our village in Mexico, so they were delighted that Buky could finally come. We were so grateful for their hospitality.



Left: Visiting Jack and Betty McLaughlin in Montana

It was also special to see new things together as a family – Shoshone Falls, Craters of the Moon, Yellowstone, and Virginia City, a historic mining town in Montana. It even snowed on our last day in Montana, which made the trip even more memorable!

Dental/Caravan Team in October

In October, we received Dr. Miller and his team to La Esperanza for the 18th time! We are so grateful for his faithfulness to the ministry by offering free dental services to people in our area



Right: Dr. Miller and assistant Jessica attend to a dental patient.

who have limited access to dental care. His team cared for 69 patients during three days of outreach!

We also were joined by a team from Family Church in Sutherlin, Oregon. Two men from this team were training with missionary Dave Johnson to drive the Mobile Dental Unit. The rest of the team helped run VBS with the children while Dr. Miller saw patients. We were also joined by other Mexican Medical staff: Cris McCoy, the Libby family, and Amy Fuller. Of course, we can't forget the local volunteers from our church that helped with VBS and evangelism. During the three-day outreach, Leticia prayed with seven women to receive Jesus and Maurilio prayed with one man who rededicated his life to the Lord.



Above: Two children volunteer during the VBS with Sutherlin Family Church.

The Harvest Festival

It was a blessing to help organize the Harvest Festival at our church at the end of October. We had an amazing backdrop of hay bales and sunflowers. There was a Biblical costume contest, a pizza dinner, silly games, candy, and a Gospel teaching. Pastor Jr. carved a pumpkin and shared the Gospel story using the pumpkin as an illustration.

There were around 50 kids and 50 parents in attendance. It was a great night for the Gospel to be heard!



Left: Pastor Jr. shares the Gospel message with the children and parents at the Harvest Festival using a pumpkin.

Martha: A Life Changed

A team from the organization Reel Life (from Alabama) held a fish fry in our community park this July after being blessed by a good catch. During the altar call that night, a single mom named Martha came forward to rededicate her life to Jesus. We were amazed to see how deeply she



Above: Martha and her family attend our church.

committed to the Lord after that night! Martha brought her children to every VBS the rest of the summer, started attending our church, and moved to our village so that she could be a part of what God

is doing here. Before we left at the end of the summer, Martha told me that she had begun to encourage her friends to seek the Lord and was seeking God's purpose for her life.

When I came back in October, Martha was serving the Lord with even more enthusiasm. She was enrolled in the Bible school and attending weekly prayer. The changes in her life began at the fish fry and then the next blessing came when

Rick Hohn came to visit and shared a message about forgiving others. I had the special opportunity to translate this message for him. Rick's message on forgiveness is powerful! His cerebral palsy, which has him confined to a wheelchair and only able to speak through a special speaking device, was caused by medical malpractice at his birth due to the doctor being drunk. Rick shared that he forgave his doctor out of obedience to God. Rick's testimony gave Martha the strength to forgive people in her life. That was the moment that she said that God set her free! We thank God for His work in Martha's life and pray that she would

continue to grow in her relationship with Christ.



Left: Rick Hohn blesses others as he shares about the power of forgiveness at our church.

A Makeover for Flores Magón

This summer we took a combined team from Idaho and Oregon to hold VBS in the community of Flores Magón. When we

arrived to Flores Magón, we saw that the walls and bleachers surrounding the



Left: Pastor Tim and the team from Oregon and Idaho paint over the graffiti at the park in Flores Magón.

basketball courts were covered with graffiti, the chain-link fence was falling down, and there was garbage and glass everywhere. We are so grateful to the team that gave this park a makeover – picking up garbage, painting over graffiti, and cutting down the mangled part of the fence. The children really enjoyed VBS in their “new park!”

A New House for Pedro and Yesenia

A team from California, Fair Oaks Presbyterian Church, helped us build a house for Pedro and Yesenia, who have been a part of our church for a number of years. Yesenia also leads women's ministry. They had been living at a ranch outside of town with a 20-minute commute by bike. They had purchased land in town, but needed help with the labor and materials. It was urgent for them to be in town because Yesenia was having health problems and their daughter, Génesis, was going to be starting kindergarten in the fall. They were so blessed by the house the team built and were able to get settled in right away.



Left: The head builders, John Paul and Greg, stand with Pedro, Yesenia, Edwin, and Génesis in front of their new house.

Worship Band on the Rise

Buky and I have really missed leading worship at the church, but we are so happy to see the next generation stepping up to do the job. Ana Luisa, Flor, and our nephew, Coco, have been involved with our church and ministry since they were little. It has been great to see them come out of their shells to lead people in



Above: Flor (left) on guitar and Ana Luisa (right) on vocals and the bass

worship. Ana Luisa leads the vocals while she plays the bass, Flor plays the guitar, and Coco plays the drums. I was so proud of them as I heard them lead powerful worship in October. Please pray that God would continue to anoint them as He uses them to lead others into His presence.

Gustavo and Cecilia Testify

We shared Gustavo and Cecilia's story in our September newsletter, and here are a few ways they have made a difference this fall.

We were delighted to see Gustavo at a taco stand in the village in October proudly wearing his Mexican Medical shirt and sharing with his brother how God had helped him stop smoking.

In November, during the Day of the Dead celebrations, at the grave of their son, Luis, they shared with their family that Luis was in heaven and how they could go to heaven too.



Gustavo and Cecilia came to our door one day asking for a tambourine. They had been ministering to Silvia (the woman that I shared about

Left: It has been a joy to see Gustavo and Cecilia growing in the Lord.

in September that was blessed by our visit). She told them that if she had her own tambourine, she would go to church. So, the ministry was able to give Gustavo and Cecilia a tambourine to pass on to Silvia and now she has been coming to church every once in a while!

During a sermon that Buky preached in October, Gustavo realized that it was important for his family to pray together. He also realized that he was the spiritual head of his family and that his prayers make a difference!



Above: Buky preaches at our church in Mexico.

It has been a blessing to witness this couple grow in the Lord. Thank you for your prayers for this family!

Upcoming Team Ministry: March and April of 2019: TBA

Please Pray For . . .

- Refreshing in the Lord and blessed family time as we recharge from much travel and ministry.
- 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 (Checks made payable to: Mexican Medical, with indication that they are for The Ventura Lewis Family.) For correspondence: include c/o Theresa Lewis with address above.	Phone Numbers:
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