

## The Pits

It was the pits! No, probably not what you're thinking. "The Pits" was the theme of our summer VBS program here at Clínica La Esperanza (CLE). We worked alongside the local church and Bible Institute students to provide 3-day VBS experiences in six different communities, over the course of six weeks.

Before summer began, the Bible Institute students rehearsed skits that tied into the theme and the daily Bible verse. We were introduced to Don Graciento, a mechanic who just loves working on cars, especially Baja race cars. Through his character, and those with whom he interacted, the children learned about obedience, forgiveness and loving one another. The children from each community played energetically, learned new songs, and heard the gospel message.

Wayne even got in on the action. During our last week of VBS, he was asked to play the role of Max, a Baja 1000 race driver. The children were enthralled to have an "official" race car driver in their midst.



When a team from the U.S. was here, we partnered with them for morning work projects, evening ministry opportunities, as well as VBS. On Thursday evenings, the schedule was a bit more relaxed. After dinner, we would drive to the top of a nearby mountain that overlooks the San Quintin valley. We would enjoy the sunset and then pray over the San Quintin valley and the seeds that had been sown during the previous days. We may never know how God will grow the seeds that were planted.



There was evidence of a seed taking root in one little boy. In the last year, his mom has committed to serve Christ and brings her children faithfully to church. She was one of our adult helpers at every week of VBS. This little boy received a children's story Bible, and carried it around with joy and excitement. Erin sat down to ask him questions of what he was reading, and he said he didn't know how to read. That didn't slow him down, though. He flipped through picture to picture, curious to know more of the story each one told. We pray that his curiosity and excitement to know God's word only continues to grow.

We are wrapping up our time here at CLE. So where are we going next? Here is a list of specific dates that you can be praying about with us:

- 9/6 - 9/11: Palenque, Chiapas (connecting with MMM missionaries)
- 9/30 - 10/9: Loreto, Baja California Sur (outreach with a new church plant)
- 10/24 - 11/11: Sonora, CA (visiting with friends and ministry partners)
- 11/20 - 11/25: Tampa Bay, FL (youth workers convention)
- 12/6 - 12/16: Cuba (serving as part of a ministry team)

Wayne and Erin Hilliker

wayne.hilliker@gmail.com

eghilliker@gmail.com

