

# BRINGING HEALING AND HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF MEXICO

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# MEXICAN MEDICAL MINISTRIES 2012 ANNUAL REPORT



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# 2012 MEXICAN MEDICAL STATISTICS

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT:

It is a rare privilege to be a part of an organization that has served for so many years. When Pastor Loran Long moved to the San Quintín Valley with his family in 1962, they did not plan for their small mission to grow into a complete mission organization. They simply saw the need and began to minister. It reminds me of the verse that says, *“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain”* (Psalm 127:1). The Lord surely has a love for Baja, Mexico, because from the humble beginning of one large travel trailer, hospitals have been built, under the tutelage of skilled American surgeons, several Mexican general doctors became masters of the craft, hundreds of missionaries have been sent out, and countless volunteers have made the trip south to bless the Mexican people with healing and hope. Over these 50 years, the methods have improved, but the strategy stays the same: go to where people with need live, empower the local church to bless their neighbors, and train people to carry on the work.



Pastor Steve and Jan Crews

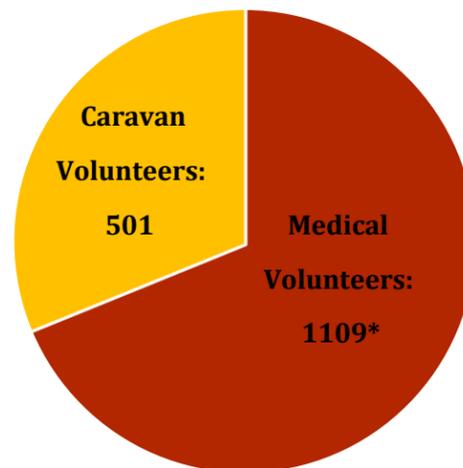
Today, Mexican Medical has over 30 full-time missionaries in the field. They host hundreds of volunteers each year, including health care professionals, church groups, and teams skilled in construction. We continue to build and improve the facilities used to care for people, but now our main focus is community health. Culturally, the local church is still the center of communities. Mexican Medical empowers them to care for their neighbors by transporting mobile clinics to their neighborhoods and offering the support of volunteers to supply health screenings and consultations. The main office in Lemon Grove, California, organizes these teams, and, by partnering with Mexican doctors and pastors, we performed over 75 community health events in 2012.

Big tools in this work are our mobile dental units. We have one in northern Baja and one further south. Just as in the United States, dental care in Mexico is expensive and the need is profound. There can be no better way to say “God loves you” than to pull a bad tooth, removing pain and suffering. It is a lot like the Gospel—Jesus removes the thing that hurts us most, our sin. Over a thousand patients received this dental care this year.

One missionary made the statement that the landscape of Baja has changed and Mexican Medical has changed with it. We have been true to our calling to “bring healing and hope to Mexico.” We are grateful to God for every volunteer who serves with us and every prayer lifted by those at home. God continues to supply what we need so we can continue to deliver the care and love that He has freely blessed us with.

— Pastor Steve Crews, President

## TEAM VOLUNTEERS



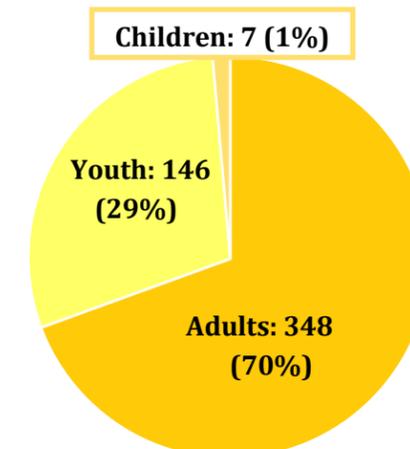
\* Includes both general volunteers and those with medical/dental specialties.

## CARAVAN TEAMS

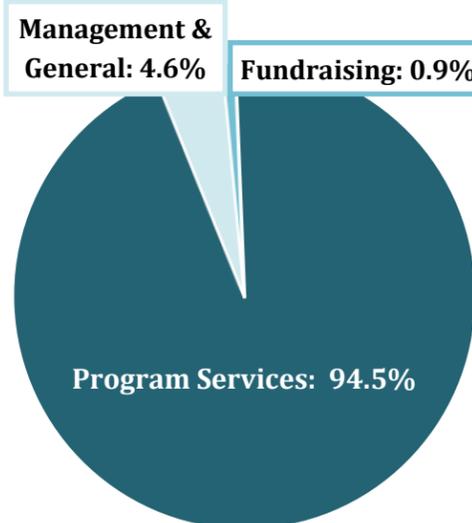
Thirty-three caravan teams, made up of 501 members from 11 U.S. states and two Canadian provinces, served with Mexican Medical in 2012.

Much was accomplished with the help of these teams: including children’s programs, construction projects, and educating national staff at the Gabriel House, a home disabled children.

These teams included:



## EXPENDITURES



## MEDICAL TEAMS

Medical teams consisting of 1,109 volunteers from the United States, Canada, and Mexico provided 7,465 much-needed services (see graph below).

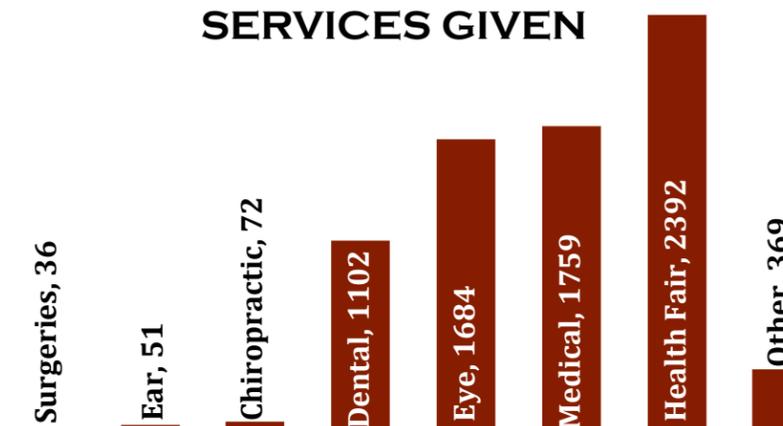
Teams from the U.S. and Canada included:

Chiropractors, 7	Physicians, 14
Nurse Prac./ P.A., 10	Nurses, 26
Dentists, 14	Dental Asst., 10
Translators, 17	General Volunteers, 319

There were 692 Mexican team members, including both general volunteers and volunteers with medical or dental specialties.

In addition to providing for the physical needs of the Mexican people, it was our desire to see many pray to receive Christ. This year, at least 1,237 people chose to do so.

## SERVICES GIVEN





**Many Gabriel House kids and missionary Hilary Holbrook spend a festive day together.**

**A number of years ago, a girl was born** into an abusive family, and, as this girl grew up she saw her father and others do terrible things to her mother—they were so bad that she threw alcohol into her eyes so that she would not be able to see all that was going on. At 12 years of age, her older sister took her and brought her to San Carlos. Lourdes' life got a little better, and she dreamed that one day she might become a nurse—but that never happened. She just did not have the money. She did, however, get married to a wonderful man, and they became Christians. Today they are both active members in Iglesia Cristiano Filadelfia in San Carlos. Her husband is the lead singer in their worship team and has a wonderful voice. Lourdes helps out in various ways with the cleaning of the church, etc.—but she is not doing anything that is very fulfilling to her. But she explained to Gabriel and Male [a health fair volunteer and a Mexican doctor], “This weekend my life’s dream came true—for two days I was a nurse.” Then she asked, “Whenever you come back to San Carlos, or to a town nearby, could I take people’s blood pressure again at one of your health fairs?” Our health fairs and “weekender” teams are bringing a variety of blessings to many people.

— **Don & Lorraine Karsgaard, Loreto**



**A patient receives a medical consultation at a health fair in Loreto.**

**A visit to the dentist looks very different** at Gabriel House than most stateside dental appointments—the most notable difference is that our kids could not be more excited! They sit outside first thing in the morning, waiting and waiting for the dental unit and dentists to arrive. Once the team makes the turn off the main road, it's a full-on party as we anxiously wait for them to get prepped and ready. They hit the ground running and see our kids one-by-one, providing much-needed cleanings, extractions if necessary, and checkups.

In October, the dental team stopped for lunch around 1 p.m. and quickly realized that all the Gabriel House kids had been seen except Javier, our one-year-old baby with two teeth! At that point, the dentists offered to see the staff and perform cleanings and extractions. In one day, three dentists and their assistants saw 31 kids and five staff members. It's a beautiful glimpse of God's Kingdom here on earth whenever the dental team comes to Gabriel House and an exciting thing to be a part of!

—**Hilary Holbrook, Gabriel House Child Advocacy/Team Relations Coordinator**

**Greetings from Palenque, Chiapas,** and congratulations on the 50th anniversary! We came to know of Mexican Medical Ministries 25 years ago through many doctors, surgeons, nurses, teachers, and missionaries who served here, especially the Allan Lee family, who we miss very much.

**Their lives and service are all fruit of the work and support of Mexican Medical!**

Throughout the course of Mexican Medical's ministry, we have received many spiritual blessings as well as special testimonies from patients who have received medical care from the visiting teams.

I myself am a living testimony of the fruit of the ministry of Clínica El Buen Pastor. I am from a village about 30 km. from the clinic. I am from the Ch'ol people group and am a farmer. God called me to be a caretaker at Clínica El Buen Pastor in 1985. I did janitorial and maintenance work there for 15 years, and our missionary brother Allan showed me how to do film ministry. I also had the privilege of going out on many medical outreaches with visiting teams. After that, God called me to become a pastor. Mexican Medical paid for me to begin studying at a seminary in southeastern Tabasco in 1995 and now I have been serving God as a pastor for 13 years.

Our daughters were born at Clínica El Buen Pastor and now work in the ministry. Our oldest, Elsy, and her husband, Lucío, have three children and one of their roles in the ministry is to lead ophthalmology teams out into local communities. We have received many testimonies from patients who have been blessed with sight through these campaigns.

My daughter Laura and her husband, who is a pastor, serve in Matamoros (in northern Mexico, just across the border from Brownsville, TX). Our daughters Blanca and Brenda recently graduated as nurses and work with us at the clinic. Our youngest, Daniel, is in high school and I am instructing him in the ministry, as well. Their lives and service are all fruit of the work and support of Mexican Medical!

Thank you very much, brothers and sisters, for allowing me to share a bit about our humble role in the ministry. May God continue to bless you greatly!

— **Pastor Diego Solis Montejo, Palenque**



**Several times each year ministry volunteers, surgeons, and medical professionals serve people in need in Palenque, Chiapas.**

For a week in November, our team of Mexican Bible students and missionaries went into schools to present our community health education classes. What began 8 years ago at one school in San Vicente has grown to 12 days and nearly 20 schools. Through this program, we have built, and continue to build, relationships and have the opportunity to meet new people. Many of you have contributed by making hats, which are given out to students and teachers. The hats have become almost like a business card and we are called the “hat people” at times. Each school we served at asked us to return next year. Several directors complimented us on the quality of our lessons on nutrition, oral hygiene, healthy life styles, and morals. Following the classroom teaching, we have games to help reinforce the teaching. The games also add a fun element and allow us to have more interaction with the students and teachers. We love this opportunity and value the relationships that allow us to expand our influence. Our goal is always to influence people in a positive way for Jesus Christ.

— Dave & Lynne Johnson, San Vicente

Hope Church and Vernon Advent Christian Church helped us with V.B.S. in Camp Vergel for three days. We had around 250 children at V.B.S., which was surprising for the time of year, but many migrant families stayed later into the season this year because the warm weather provided more work.

The team prepared a drama about Lazarus and a puppet show about the importance of obedience. Also, Sparrow the Clown came with the team one day to paint faces and share about giving God your heart.

One day at V.B.S., Buky was teaching the children about how Jesus gives us second chances. Buky didn't know that Gerardo, a man delivering propane, was listening to him and was compelled to stop and listen more closely. He felt that the words spoken were not of man. We know that God was using Buky as a mouthpiece into this man's life. The next day, Gerardo came by the clinic and prayed to receive Christ. Gerardo continues to come by with the propane and this gives Buky more chances to encourage him in his new found faith.

— Theresa Lewis (Ventura) & Buky Ventura, La Esperanza



Students learn about healthy foods and proper dental hygiene.



Foot care and dental stations during two medical brigadas



*Medical Brigadas were held in Ensenada and San Quintín, providing medical, dental, and chiropractic care, glasses, foot care, haircuts, and counseling. Here are some reflections on these events.*

We can look at the overall numbers of the events: 800 services given in each location and 200 people praying to receive Christ for the first time at each event. The numbers are impressive, but unless we look at individual stories, they are just numbers to us.

One team member shared about how, when she went to the janitor's closet to change the foot care water, she was impressed by the man who had found a quiet place to sit and read the Gospel of John he had received with his new glasses. He had turned over a 5-gallon bucket and was sitting on it in the mop closet. Over the course of 2-3 hours, she kept changing the water, and there he sat reading the Gospel of John.

Speaking of foot care, imagine the joy of several that hadn't had their toe nails trimmed or feet cleaned for a very long time... maybe even years? The job to clean them is less than desirable, but it was done willingly by some astounding volunteers.

At the San Quintín outreach, Mexican Medical missionary **Allan Lee** was able to hand out media to 42 families in their dialects. While most speak some Spanish, Allan was able to give them CDs and movies about Jesus in their heart language. This was the first time we offered this service at one of our health brigades and it was very successful.

We don't all have the gift of evangelism, working with children, or checking blood glucose levels; we aren't all trained as doctors or dentists, but working together we create one body that can serve people and share Jesus.

We can't begin to know the story of every volunteer and every “patient” at the brigadas, but from the stories that we do hear, we know that Christ is changing lives one at a time, and we are blessed to be able to count those changed lives by the hundreds.

— Kristi Libby, Medical Services Coordinator