

# MEXICAN MEDICAL MINISTRIES

Bringing

*healing & hope*

to the people of Mexico



## 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

**7000 hotdogs and cooking!** That's an estimate of the number of hotdogs we "bunned" at our Tijuana health brigades during 2013. I know they are not the most elaborate of lunches, but they do bring a lot of smiles to people who are waiting to receive medical or dental care.

Community health fairs remained a large part of Mexican Medical's ministry in 2013. We were very blessed to see at least 1295 adults bow their heads and hearts, and accept salvation from Jesus at these events. An equally satisfying part of these events is the strong, lasting partnerships formed with the local churches. For example, local pastors or the Tijuana Pastor's Alliance determine the location for each of our Tijuana brigadas. It is clear at each event that God is leading them to the right locations, where the most disenfranchised and neediest families reside.



For many years Mexican Medical was known for building hospitals and medical facilities. Although construction has not been our primary focus in recent years, in 2013 major building projects took place at three of these facilities: "El Buen Pastor" hospital in San Quintín added a second operating room; Clínica La Esperanza received a new roof, thanks to the work of caravan volunteers; and a second story was added to Clínica Agua Viva in Cabo San Lucas. These additions will enhance and improve the quality of care we deliver to the people of those communities.

A significant ministry that we do not often recognize are the medical teams that utilize our health facilities. Groups with Colorado Airlift Outreach visited "El Buen Pastor" hospital in San Quintín to perform eye surgeries four times last year and teams from the Flying Samaritans arrived monthly to do specialty surgeries. A mobile government clinic utilized Clínica La Esperanza nearly every week during the year to see patients from neighboring communities and migrant camps. Ophthalmology teams also provided services at Clínica El Buen Pastor in Palenque in 2013. These volunteers arrived and departed without fanfare, but they provided an incredible service to those in need.

We have been committed since our beginning to empower our national partners, train local leaders, and assist in building up the local churches of Baja California. In 2013, several of our missionaries were blessed to join mission trips with national churches as they traveled to more remote parts of Mexico. These trips were coordinated and funded by the national churches. It is gratifying to see our example of short-term missions rub off on our brothers and sisters in Mexico.

It was great year of service and we look forward to much more in 2014.

—Steve Crews, President

**We had an amazing opportunity in July!** The leader of the Reel Life International team is friends with a ranch owner in San Quintín, so the owner gave us permission to bless his farm workers by holding a medical brigada at his farm during work hours. We were overwhelmed by the support of volunteers from San Diego, Alabama, Tijuana, San Vicente, and our local church, Iglesia la Hermosa, which helped make this event happen.

Some of the sweetest memories of this event for me were watching the young children from the Alabama group come together to assemble 700 hygiene bags. The workers were so eager and thankful to receive the gift. It was encouraging to see members of our church praying with the workers in the prayer tent, where 210 workers prayed to accept Jesus. Also, during the brigada, I had a chance to counsel and pray with some women who were going through hard times. It was an honor to be able to offer a shoulder for them to cry on and to point them to God their Comforter.

During the brigada, 164 people received glasses, 183 medical consults were given, 57 patients were seen by the dentist, and 77 people received haircuts. Fellow missionary Allan Lee was able to distribute CDs of the gospel and DVDs of the Jesus film to 81 people in 31 different indigenous languages. —**Theresa Lewis, La Esperanza**



### **The highlight of this June at the Gabriel House**

was a week-long team from two churches in Northern California. These guys came to work... and work they did. We took every single kid to the beach (at the same time) so that Gabriel House could be fumigated. We saw kids smiling who rarely smile, I heard Victor laugh harder than ever before, Ely, Chely, and Sonia had huge smiles on their faces all day long, and even Emiliano realized he did not hate the water like he originally thought. Raúl became such good friends with his friend-for-the-day, Thomas, and showed more affection than we have ever seen out of him. He even gave Thomas a hug at the end of the day! The group also built a new shed (in two days) to store diapers and other supplies. It was an incredible week.

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





**Fahrenheit:** that was the temperature as we departed Palenque after two full weeks of ministry (April 2-15). The heat could not dampen our spirits or our joy, even as we said good-bye to “the family” at Hospital El Buen Pastor in Palenque, Chiapas. The family patriarch, Pastor Diego, and his wife, Rosa (see photo at right), have been a part of the ministry at the hospital for over 25 years.

For this trip to Palenque, we decided to have two separate teams back-to-back to make the best use of airfare. The first week was a surgical team. Three doctors from the U.S. performed surgeries and Dr. César Tamez took care of the anesthesia. By the end of the week, 15 lives had been changed through surgery. Actually, 16 lives, as one of the surgeries was a C-section! While I have been a part of many births and C-sections in Mexico, this is the first one in Palenque. What a joy it was to be a part of this great event!

The following week, after the surgical team left, the



*“Behold, I will bring it health and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them the abundance of peace and truth.” -Jeremiah 33:6*



ten of us who were staying on for the outreaches got up early for a three-hour drive to the remote city of Yajalón. It was joy to serve with the pastor of the church there, who had been asking for a medical outreach for a long time. Dr. Tamez and Blanca (Diego’s daughter) offered medical consultations and had a mobile pharmacy available. Two team members and I checked blood pressure and glucose levels. Lucio, Diego’s son-in-law, and Wilbur, an ophthalmology technician, gave eye consults. Theresa Lewis & Buky Ventura headed up the children’s ministry. The next three days, we served the communities of Madero, El Samaritano, and Chancalá. We were also able to do Sunday school for the children of Santa María. In all, we gave the following services: 200 medical consults, 177 eye glasses, and children’s ministry for 313 children.

We are grateful for God’s blessing on the teams and our time in Palenque.

**—Kristi Libby, Medical Services Coordinator**



***Living and serving God with Mexican Medical Ministries*** in Mexico is an amazing adventure and sometimes a challenge to human reason. Well, the truth is that, in the new life of believers in Jesus Christ (the founder of the Church, and whose name we bear and who died and rose again), everything is transformation and manifestation of God's supernatural power. The Almighty is displaying His infinite grace and we are witnessing healings, salvations and restorations of individuals and of marriages. We continue praying for and expecting miracles in the lives of many.

—Dr. César Tamez, Tijuana

**For the past several years, missionaries Pam and Gary Sheveland (based in Cabo San Lucas) have facilitated education and training for area pastors. Here are some of their reflections on the impact of the Leadership Training School:**

***We have always had a heart for the pastors and a desire to see them grow.*** Many of them have not had a lot of, or any, biblical teaching outside of their own pastor. Of course, this is one main reason for these classes. Another important need is for them to have someone to talk to outside of their church, someone who can love on them, encourage them, pray with them, and at times, disciple them.

For several years now we have had the opportunity to connect with a couple of ladies from Minnesota. They have helped several ministries here in Cabo with building projects, sports activities, children's ministries, and women's ministries. Most of the pastors here in Cabo do not do ministry together very often, unless they know each other very well. When these ladies did an area women's conference several years ago, they were surprised that women from many different churches attended. This conference was repeated in April and about 14 different churches were represented. We had breakfast with the two women the day after the conference, and they shared that they believed the success of having so many different churches involved was because of the Leadership Training School. The school has brought many of the pastors together and their barriers have been dropped.

God is working in this community.



*Pastor Santiago, and family, who has attended classes in Cabo San Lucas.*





*Nine years ago, a 14-year-old girl asked us if she could go with us to share Jesus with her own people. God has turned that one young lady, Alma, into a team of 18 young people. This team is not only serving with us, but is very active in service with the local church. Pastor José (pastor of the San Vicente Nazarene Church) has told me that several of the parents have been surprised to see their son or daughter in front of the church, or at other outreaches, telling a Bible story, explaining the meaning of a verse, or leading a group in singing. We have been able to bring children's ministries leaders to assist our team in learning new skills. In answer to prayer, we have also been able to add three young men to the group.*

*—Dave & Lynne Johnson, San Vicente*

## ***It felt like home... in the prison again.***

*We feel very safe and comfortable at this medium security prison—we have complete freedom to share the Gospel with everyone and we're able to pray with them individually during our consultations. In November, we were there for three days, instead of our usual two days. At the start of each day, Don shared an encouraging Gospel message from the Bible with our team and some of the prison staff.*

*At the end of the last day, all of the inmates came to their eating area where Don gave a strong presentation: explaining how we must realize that we will all see our Creator as our Judge at the end of our lives. God created us all for a purpose, and God gave us a manual of how to live according to that purpose. The secrets of how we can stand before Him and be invited into heaven, be forgiven for our past, and become acceptable to Him are in the Bible!*

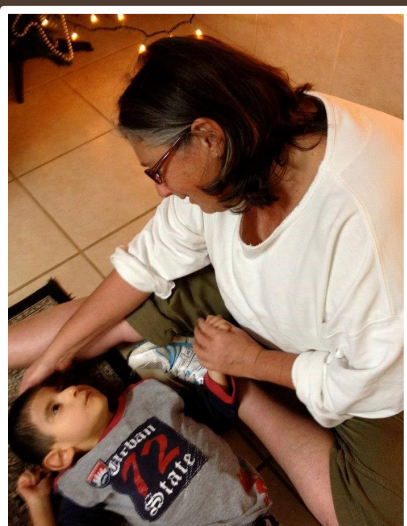
*After this message we offered them a gift bag of hygiene items and a Bible. A man gave us 240 Bibles, so that we were able to give one to everyone in the prison who would take one. Almost every inmate did, as did many of the prison staff and guards. The Bibles will help them become prepared to live as God intended and to be acceptable to Him on Judgment Day.*

*—Don & Lorraine Karsgaard, Loreto*

**Missionary Allan Lee (based in San Quintín) utilizes a variety of avenues to spread God's Word and share Christian resources with the Copala Triquis and other indigenous people groups of Mexico. He shares some of the ways this mission was accomplished during 2013:**

- ♦ *We produced over 7,400 Christian CDs and DVDs in 2013. Two-thirds of them were in Copala Triqui and one-third was in other various indigenous languages of Mexico.*
- ♦ *We placed over 110 Audible players with individuals, either on extended loan or as gifts. Most of these were loaded with a 50-hour collection of Copala Triqui audio recordings.*
- ♦ *In 2013, the Copala Triqui version of the movie The Hope, that we dubbed, was officially released to the public.*
- ♦ *We also produced a 74-minute, slide-show style video in Copala Triqui. This video includes the narration of 15 stories from the lives of Abraham, Issac, Jacob, and Joseph set to photos from the Genesis film. It is available on DVD and on YouTube (channel: triquis4j).*
- ♦ *We released an mp3-CD containing all 49 28-minute episodes of the the Copala Triqui radio program, which we created in 2012, that features Scripture reading and Christian music in Triqui. We also made the files available to the public for free download from one of my websites ([www.rekursosenidiomasindigenas.com](http://www.rekursosenidiomasindigenas.com)).*
- ♦ *To facilitate literacy in Triqui, we converted a literacy book, a book of seven psalms, and one Christian song from the Triqui hymnal into YouTube videos. This allows people to access them without us needing to print and ship so many copies.*
- ♦ *We converted five short Bible story videos in the Central Tarahumara language from VHS into digital format, releasing them as individual YouTube videos and on a single DVD.*

***Mexican Medical welcomed three new full-time missionaries in 2013***



**Adele Parisotto**  
*Serving at Gabriel House*



**Cris McCoy**  
*Serving at La Esperanza*



**Megan Stone**  
*Serving in Lemon Grove, CA*

# 2013 MINISTRY & FINANCIAL STATISTICS



## *Medical Team Services*

<b>2,307</b>	<i>Eye</i>	<b>90</b>	<i>Chiropractic</i>
<b>1,718</b>	<i>Medical</i>	<b>39</b>	<i>Surgeries</i>
<b>1,285</b>	<i>Dental</i>	<b>10</b>	<i>Ear</i>
<b>730</b>	<i>Other (Including: foot care, haircuts, flu shots, and wheelchair services.)</i>		

## *Services at “El Buen Pastor” hospital in San Quintín*

<b>2,968</b>	<i>Patients received care</i>
<b>729</b>	<i>Surgeries</i>

## *Medical Team Volunteers*

***U.S. & Mexico-based Mexican Medical staff: 178***

***From U.S. & Canada: 236***

*Specialized (73\*) and general volunteers (163)*

\*Specialized volunteers included: 4 chiropractors, 3 dental assistants, 13 dentists, 8 nurse practitioners/physician’s assistants, 20 nurses, 21 physicians, and 4 translators.

***From Mexico: 579***

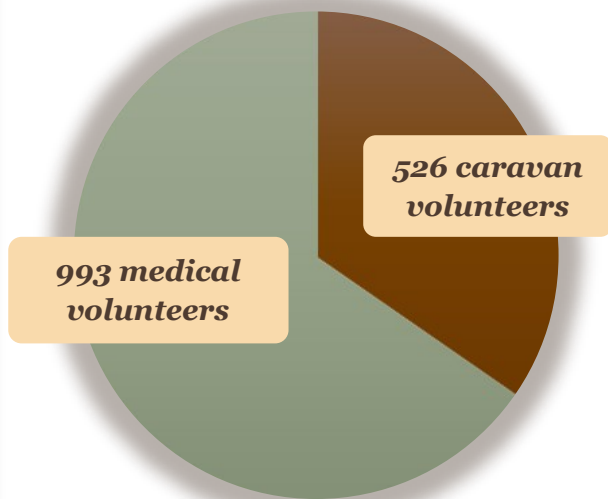
*(Including specialized and general volunteers)*

***2,988 Children’s health fair participants (during medical team outreaches)***

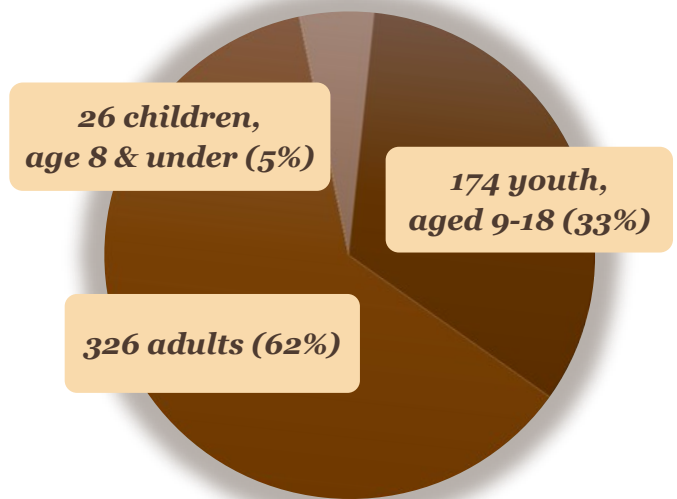
***1,295 People chose to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior at medical team outreaches during 2013.***



### **Volunteers (by type of team)**



### **Caravan Volunteers (by age group)**

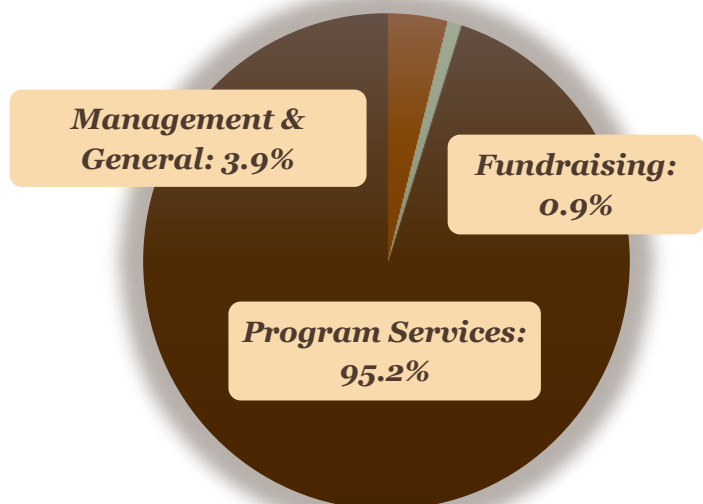


### **Caravan Teams**

*A total of 33 caravan teams served with Mexican Medical in 2013. These teams traveled from seven U.S. states and three Canadian provinces. They not only participated in various ministries, health fairs, and construction projects, but they also had opportunities to grow in their faith in Christ Jesus.*



### **Expenditures**





# MEXICAN MEDICAL MINISTRIES

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