

Mission Focus



Issue 22
Spring
April 2019

Serving in Mexico



Kingdom Investment

Earlier this year, through your donations, I was able to provide wrapped boxes, filled with gifts of warmth and fun, for 4 of the children in our village. On each home visit, the kids were as overjoyed to see me as I was to see them. I read the story in Mark 2 of the wise men and then they opened their gifts. Next, they shared prayer requests, revealing their heart wounds rooted in parental relationships, and then we prayed.

It is my desire as I spend time with these kids that I can teach them how to have eyes that see God and ears that hear Him. Also, my heart hopes that by demonstrating how valued these kids are that it would encourage their parents to walk away from drugs and into Jesus' arms of love. I feel the Lord is calling me to step into what seems impossible to see what He will do!

We parted with lingering hugs and smiles. How privileged I am to be positioned here to step into this gap. Thank you for all your prayers, support, and encouragement!



Home Visits.



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Healing

Last summer on one of our last days in camp, we encountered a young girl in need of cleft palate surgery. Our La Esperanza site missionary, Theresa, went to check in with social services to see if we could help in any way. She found out that this child was already scheduled for surgery. This spring we returned to Camp Vergel with our first team and the same little girl came to our program. She was smiling brightly and following the mimics of the worship songs so intently. She had an openness she did not have before. What joy it was for us to share this time with her!



Pastor Marianne

What an honor and a privilege to have been invited and to be able to travel to Corona for a day to honor and celebrate our retiring pastor from my home church, Inland Vineyard Fellowship. This woman has had such a deep and profound impact on my life. For many years, I could see myself on the foreign mission field, but a huge chasm lay between where I was and where I could see the Lord was calling/inviting me to go. I did not know how to cross the chasm. Marianne was the person most instrumental in helping me across by standing with me, fighting for me and encouraging me onward. Also, the love, care and acceptance that she has shown me in our community has brought much healing and growth to my heart. And now, I get to take what she has deposited in me into other cultures and other people groups (indigenous). My heart is full!

Spring Teams

We had two full weeks of ministry with teams coming from Oregon and Reno. We did work projects, VBS, film & prayer ministry, youth & family nights, and visits to a senior home. We washed feet and held hands and led many people into encounters with Jesus. One of these stories is of a youth who had acted so hard, yet his heart softened and he wept as one of the men, Richard, from the team shared a word of encouragement from the Lord. You could see he was having a powerful encounter with Jesus as one of our youth volunteers translated and prayed for him. And then there was Elvira, who had come forward for prayer and hoped for a large print Bible. Due to her diabetes she could not see the small print. We didn't have one with us but I had such faith that I would find one on our La Esperanza site even though everyone said we did not have one. I told her I would bring it to her the next day if I could find one. The others had been right, there was not one at our site, but I had such faith for it! I stood in our small library and raised my hands in prayer and asked the Lord if there was not one large print Bible available for Elvira? When I opened my eyes there was one laying on the table in front of me, where I had already looked. It was a miracle! The next day I delivered it to her dwelling along with some reading glasses. Before the week was out, she would find us as she was coming in from the fields. Elvira came to me weeping in gratitude for the book of God's Word. We prayed for her again. We spoke life and truth into her. We told her that she was deeply loved and valued. We told her how Jesus loves her. I could feel she was having an encounter with the Presence and love of Christ himself. How blessed we are to share these kinds of experiences with others. I pause and thank Jesus for making our lives, our giving, our work so rich!

Vacation Bible school encounters.



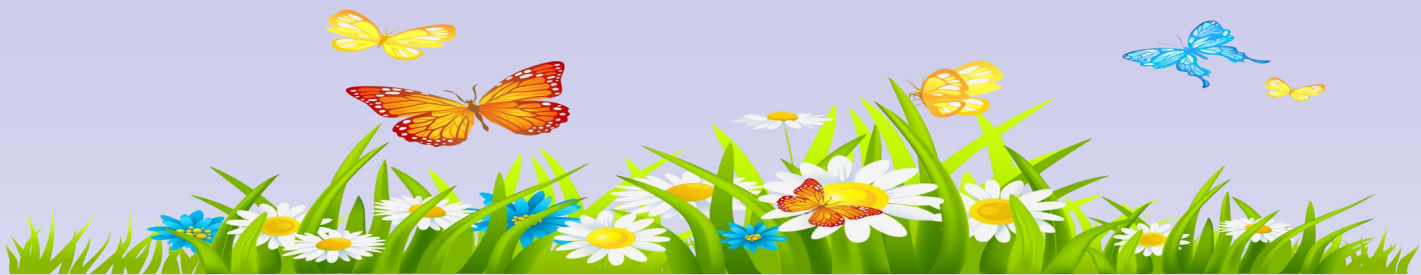
Senior Home visits.



Physical Therapy.

Foot washing.





Personal Note

The season is now upon me where I must move forward with total knee replacement surgery. I am finally in a place where I am ready, especially if I am to stay for the long haul on the mission field. My surgery date is set for May 28th. Due to recovery time, I will not be participating in much of our summer ministries, though I do hope to return in mid-July for our last couple of summer teams. I plan to stay in San Diego during this time close to medical care.

I am grateful that the Lord has opened the way for me. I am thankful yet afraid, though I have peace. Here will be another opportunity for my level of trust and dependence on Jesus to be challenged and grow deeper. I do believe He is good in all things!

I would welcome your prayers for quick and complete recovery. I will be keeping you all in my heart and prayers during this time as well.

Isaiah 41:10

Do not fear for I am with you: do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you;
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

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Ps 46:10 Bz still
and know
that I am God.



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to Mexico.***