

# The Mountains Will Move . . . Matthew 17:20

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

### Serving with Mexican Medical at La Esperanza



## Making Disciples

There were five people baptized on Easter Sunday. **Gustavo** was baptized that day – it was five years to the month since his son Luis went to be with the Lord. We praise God that we have seen fruit even through this tragic circumstance. **Silvia** has been mentored by Gustavo's wife, Cecilia, who has already been baptized. **Pedro** is the last of the eight Ramos children to be baptized. Pedro and his family have been key helpers to us in the ministry. **Karina** is the mother of three children from our Saturday Bible club and has been mentored by Buky's sister, Reyna. **Verónica** has been mentored by Martha. Martha is the woman who rededicated her life to Christ at our community fish fry this last summer!

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . Matthew 28:19*

We praise God for the way He has moved through ministries and relationships to draw these people into a deeper commitment to Him. Thank you so much for being a part of our ministry through your prayers, giving, and coming to serve! It has made a difference for the kingdom.

Please keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers in this new season of their lives!



Left to right: Karina, Pastor Ángel, Pedro, Pastor Jr., Silvia, Veronica, and Gustavo after the baptisms

## Silvia and Cecilia

I shared before that a team last summer prayed for Silvia at her home and that Cecilia had come to me asking for a tambourine for her, because Silvia had told her she would go to church if she had a tambourine. When I arrived back to La Esperanza in March, Silvia and Cecilia arrived to tell me that Silvia wanted to dedicate her children, Samantha and Moisés. They also came asking for Bibles because Cecilia was teaching Silvia to read!



Above: Theresa, Silvia, and Cecilia together after Silvia's baptism

Another day, the two came by to present me with a paper that had the lyrics of a worship song that Silvia knew from her childhood. It took Silvia four days to write it. I handed Silvia and Cecilia maracas and they began to sing the song for me. It was the sweetest moment - a moment I had almost missed out on because I had been busy cooking dinner. However, I couldn't turn these dear friends away. What a special gift they gave me!

A few weeks later, Silvia brought her family to our hot dog feeds at the mission base. At the second hot dog feed, youth pastor Danny Fierro, from The Bridge Church in Reno, shared his testimony and invited people to come forward to dedicate their lives to Christ. Silvia went forward that night as well as the following night at church after Pastor Bill West from The Bridge preached. Silvia soon signed up to be baptized.

Silvia's husband Moisés came to her baptism and has now been attending church. They decided to dedicate their children, and chose fellow missionary Cris McCoy, Buky, and me to be the children's godparents. It was such a blessing to be a part of the dedication for two of our kids from Saturday Club.

Silvia came to me the other day and asked me for another Bible. She had given her Bible away to someone who didn't have one. Instead of giving her just one Bible, I gave her two! She was so delighted because she already had

someone in mind to give it to! She was also excited that someone gave her an audio Bible, which helps her to hear God's word regularly. We praise God for touching Silvia's life and trust that God is going to use her to bring many to Christ!



**Buky, Theresa, and Cris with Silvia and her family after the children's dedication in church**

## **Surgical Team to Buen Pastor**

In March, we hosted a surgical team led by Kristi Libby that served at Hospital Buen Pastor (the hospital where Elena was born.) During their time of service, they held 38 consultations and did 5 gynecological surgeries. One of the team members fluent in Spanish shared about Christ with people in the waiting room of the hospital,



**Left: Kristi, Dr. Sandra and Dr. Berneva in the middle of gynecological surgery at Hospital Buen Pastor.**



and eight people prayed to receive Christ that weekend. After follow-up calls, we found that two of those people are now involved with churches as a result of their decision at Buen Pastor. Please pray that the other six people would be able to plug into a church. We are so grateful that these volunteers offer hope and healing to the people of our valley.

## Surgery for my Dad

My dad had an appointment with a cardiologist in March after we were back in Mexico. After an exploratory surgery, the doctor discovered that he had three blockages in his heart and was then scheduled for triple bypass surgery a few days later. It was difficult to be far away at this time, but I had to trust that God would watch over my dad while we were off



My dad with Elena at the Oregon State Fair in August 2018

doing His work in Mexico. My mom has been an excellent nurse and my dad has recovered well. He can drive again and has lost 27 pounds! I'm grateful

for the friends that helped my parents through this time and thankful to God who was faithful to bring my father through the surgery. We look forward to seeing my parents again in August for Elena's 4<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## Winter in Oregon

The winter flew by while we were in Oregon. We were involved in several different activities during these months.

My dear friend and spiritual mentor for 20 years, Mary Beth, opened a counseling business in Newport. We were blessed to be able to help her move into her office building and be present at a gathering to pray that God would bless her ministry there. I was happy we were able to support her after she has been such an encouragement to me over the years.



Elena loves a visit from Mary Beth at our house!

We loved being involved in Iglesia Nueva Esperanza and South Beach Church in Newport. We were blessed to make new friends at both churches. In January, Buky preached his first sermon in the U.S. at Nueva Esperanza in Spanish. It was a hard night for him to go preach because he had to leave in the middle of an intense Patriots game. Buky was excited that the sermon went well and that the Patriots won their game too! I was blessed to be a part of the monthly women's Bible study at



Buky preaches in the U.S. for the first time at Nueva Esperanza in Newport.

Nueva Esperanza and help with the music. It was hard to say goodbye to our friends in Newport, but we look forward to seeing them again in the future.

In February, we spent two weeks visiting churches and friends in the Portland area. We were able to go to Newberg, Oregon, where I lived the first fifteen years of my life! Buky and I celebrated our 10<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary there! We were also able to visit Camp Tilikum, where I had prayed to accept Jesus as a child. How wonderful to finally share these special places with my family!

There were a lot of special visits, but one in particular was a dinner with Carrie McNeal and the Records. When I was young, these families encouraged me to go to church, Awanas, and church camp with their daughters. I'm grateful that God put them in my life and I was happy to introduce them to my family.

We were very encouraged by our visits to the churches. We shared with congregations and children from the Awanas program about our ministry. People prayed for us and were excited about what God is doing at La Esperanza. Many wanted to come serve too! Buky even was asked to preach his first

sermon in English in the U.S. at True Life Church in Colton, Oregon!

It was a blessing to introduce my family to Carrie, a friend that my parents met in Lamaze class!



Bob and Judy Records were our neighbors in Newberg. I am friends with their daughter Jenny. Our moms walked us to school together.

### Spring Teams

This spring we were joined by teams from Family Church, OR and The Bridge Church, NV. We had a great two weeks of ministry! I will share about that in our next newsletter.

**Upcoming Team Ministry:**  
**May 23rd - 26th:**  
**Surgical team at Buen Pastor**

**June 1st - 8th: Riverside Medical team**  
**with four days of health fairs**

### Please Pray For . . .

- **More people to come to Christ through outreaches in May and June**
- **Wisdom as we plan ministry for the summer**

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