

It's not a surprise to God

When we arrived in Nueva Odisea in June, we were looking forward to serving alongside fellow missionaries Buky and Theresa Ventura. We were also preparing for a packed summer of six, back-to-back weeks of ministry teams. Little did we know, God had other plans for this summer.

Before our first team even arrived, our six teams had dropped to four, and after the earthquakes in Southern California, another team cancelled, leaving us with a total of three teams for the summer. And then, after our first week serving alongside Buky and Theresa, Buky needed to be hospitalized for a serious medical issue. The night before our next team was to arrive they drove to the closest metropolitan area, three hours away, for treatment. That left us holding the reins. *(Fill in your preferred metaphor here — deep end of the pool, pushed out of the nest, etc.)*

As the pastor down here stated at the beginning of this adventure, none of this was a surprise for God!

It was time to put our short, one-week of training into practice. We are so thankful for the team of leaders here at Clínica la Esperanza (CLE): from the Pastor of the church to the Bible Institute Students that have been serving each week with outreaches, and the local church community. God has really used this experience to highlight what it looks like to be the body of Christ in action.

We have been blessed to be part of many different ministries in our short time at CLE and to work alongside Bible students applying their learning. Each week has included work projects, a VBS program in a separate community, film ministry in the migrant camp, praying for shut-ins at their homes, and visits to a senior adult care facility.

Our first week “in charge” was a great blessing with a great team from Idaho. Please continue to pray for Buky’s health! We have one week of ministry without a team from the U.S. and then our last team the following week. It would be special for the team to have Buky and Theresa back on site during that week.



In the Bible, Mordecai told his niece Esther, “who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this.” Although we are not risking our lives going before a king to save an entire people group as Esther did, we can’t help but see how God orchestrates the master calendar. The timing of our serving here at CLE and the type of experiences God placed in our background was not a surprise to Him.

Thank you for praying. God is doing great and mighty things. We look forward to sharing more in our next update!

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