

2019 Annual Report

Mexican Medical Ministries



Jesus said, “Make disciples, and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 28:19

By Pastor Steve Crews

In any industry, there is some sort of end result, a finished product. In farming, that is the "fruit" or harvest. Housebuilders like to say a home is move-in ready. But in ministry, we can't really know the outcome 100 percent until we get to heaven and see who made it. Don't get me wrong—I believe in the assurance of salvation, but what can we call our finished product? What do we seek for all our efforts and what is the outcome of our labors? Apostle Paul said in 1 Thessalonians 2:19, “For who is our hope or joy or crown of exultation? Is it not even you, in the presence of our Lord Jesus at His coming?”

This October, a large part of the staff of Mexican Medical gathered in the fishing town of Loreto in southern Baja for a retreat. It was not all fun and games—we gathered to encourage a dear family who has been laboring for a year to plant a new church. There are other churches in town but the town has grown and there are still many who have not heard about Jesus. The pastor doesn't have a church building, so, for the past year, he has had three Bible studies in his home each week. We planned to conduct two health fairs in a public park near his house. In addition to our Mexican Medical team, forty brothers and sisters from Cabo San Lucas drove 7 hours to help evangelize at the event. Some of these folks were actually people that the pastor had led to the Lord years before.

At the health fairs, we provided dental care, reading glasses, medical consultations (with pharmacy), foot care, haircuts, and Bibles for everyone in need, all free of charge. During the each of the two days of outreach, we also ministered to over 90 children, providing health education and messages from Scripture. During the whole event, there was live music, so praises to Jesus were heard in the community as people waited to receive care. All the while, our brothers and sisters volunteering at the event were becoming acquainted with the guests and sharing personally how Jesus has made a difference in their lives.

What I am describing is all the work that leads to an end result, but what I have left off is my description of the first event we shared that weekend.

Early Saturday morning, we all went to the beach. Canopies were set up because it was already 85 degrees out. There was a magnificent view of the offshore islands. Children were allowed to swim during the whole event. Pastors began to give short messages, the song leaders led in praises, and six individuals dressed in white were the center of attention. The leaders spoke to each individual and laid hands on them and prayed.



These six had come to follow Jesus' example into the waters of baptism. They were there to publicly proclaim that they were followers of Jesus. They had come to know Jesus earlier in the year and had been disciplined by the pastor and his wife through Bible studies and teachings. And, on this day, they were declaring their dedication to the Lord and to the family of God. They were being recognized as members of Jesus' church.

As an older believer, nothing gave me greater joy than to see these folks immersed in the Sea of Cortez and brought back up, signifying newness of self and a rebirth. I have to say that this really is a pastor's dream—while on earth, this is the finished product. I know that, for all of us, baptism is just one step in the long journey before we come face to face with our Savior, but it is a day worth remembering and part of the story we share when we tell the world about how our life has changed.



Volunteers giving children shampoos, and finished hairstyling on the right.



Providing eye care and medical procedures to those in need



Pictures below are from Cuba. Volunteers provide food, clothing, hygiene bags, and the Gospel to at risk seniors and children.



“God of the Impossible”

By Martha Ramos,
with Erin Hilliker



Nursing Student Martha Ramos

My name is Martha Ramos. I am 25 years old, and I am excited to be studying nursing at Buen Pastor Hospital in San Quintín, Baja California, Mexico.

When I was younger, I didn't want the things of God. I preferred to be with my friends instead of going to church. I would often say that when I turned 18, I would stop going to church. However, when I was 17 years old, I gave my life to God and took the step to follow Christ. Since then, I have been involved with my church and many of its different ministries.

I come from a family of 8 siblings. Before I was born, our family migrated from Oaxaca to San Quintín seeking better opportunities. When I would help with outreaches in the San Quintín valley, I would see nurses caring for people, and would think to myself, “I want to be in their position; I want to care for others in that way.”

I learned about Mexican Medical Ministries through MMM missionaries in my church, and from other MMM missionaries who would visit. Through conversations with them, I discovered that God was calling me to serve those around me and to take His words, and

also physical help, to those in need. With God's provision and the help of MMM, I now receive a scholarship to study in the nursing program at Buen Pastor Hospital.

Recently, I had the opportunity to join other MexMed team members for a health fair and outreach in Loreto. I served with the medical consult team, taking patients' vital signs before they saw the doctor. In our team debriefing time afterward, I shared that it had been a dream come true to finally sit at the table, doing those tests and caring for people with the love of Christ. That was a dream I never thought would ever be possible!

I would like to serve as a missionary nurse with MMM after completing my studies with the hospital. I thank God for the people who have supported me in my studies.

It is beautiful to know that the One who never forgets our petitions is the God of the impossible. So I encourage you to follow Christ because what God promised you that He will do, sooner or later, He will do it. Amen! As it says in Luke 1:37, “For with God nothing shall be impossible.”



Martha Ramos taking vital signs at a health fair in Southern Baja

Heeding the Call

By Wayne Hilliker



My parents have been a strong example for me of what it means to trust and obey God's calling in your life. In 1970 they boarded a ship heading to Venezuela to serve as missionaries. I was just a baby when they arrived on the mission field for the first time. That would be our family's home for the next 14 years.

Now the Lord has called my wife and me to "Go" and serve the people of Mexico as full-time missionaries with MMM. We can see that God is at work in the hearts and lives of the people in Mexico and are eager to be part of what He is doing.



Wayne & Erin Hilliker

One thing I have seen in our brief time serving is the tremendous value of the health fairs that MMM does throughout the Baja. Children play games while learning about healthy choices, hygiene and hydration. The gospel message of God's love and forgiveness is shared with each child. Local church members are evangelizing one-on-one as people are waiting for their appointment for dental work, reading glasses, or medical consults.

For me, a health fair captures the mission of MMM of working with the local church to bring healing and hope through medicine and the Good News of salvation through Jesus Christ. We are looking forward to continuing to serve with MMM missionaries in the coming months and seeking new opportunities for this type of outreach.

50 Years of Answered Prayers

By Ruth González

"O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer [...] of your servants who delight in revering your name."
Nehemiah 1:11

May God continue to guide you in your prayers for His mighty work in San Quintín of addressing the physical and spiritual needs of the very needy over the course of more than 50 years. The medical ministry was born through prayer in the 1960s, Sunday potluck and prayer with the Longs in the mission hangar. (Our beloved Loran Long, now with the Lord, was the founder of Mexican Medical Ministries.)

Through the years, prayer miraculously provided needed funds, supplies and equipment.

A hospital for the poor is difficult to sustain. God has worked continually through your prayers to encourage the medical missionaries. As Jesus said, "the poor you will always have," and the hospital work keeps busy.

Medical director Dr. Alejandro González is very grateful for your prayers for his health. He is enthusiastic as he trains Dr. Javier Guerrero Torralba to take his position. Dr. Guerrero has shown his commitment to the hospital, and thanks to your prayers, frequents our church services. He is grasping to understand the Word, and mission work has been a big change for him. His wife Griselda has embraced the Good News and shares with family and friends.

More answers to prayer:

- 1) The airstrip is officially OPEN!
- 2) Our bills are paid!
- 3) Key nurses are receiving additional education!
- 4) Several young men from church preach at monthly specialty clinics!

Praise the Lord!

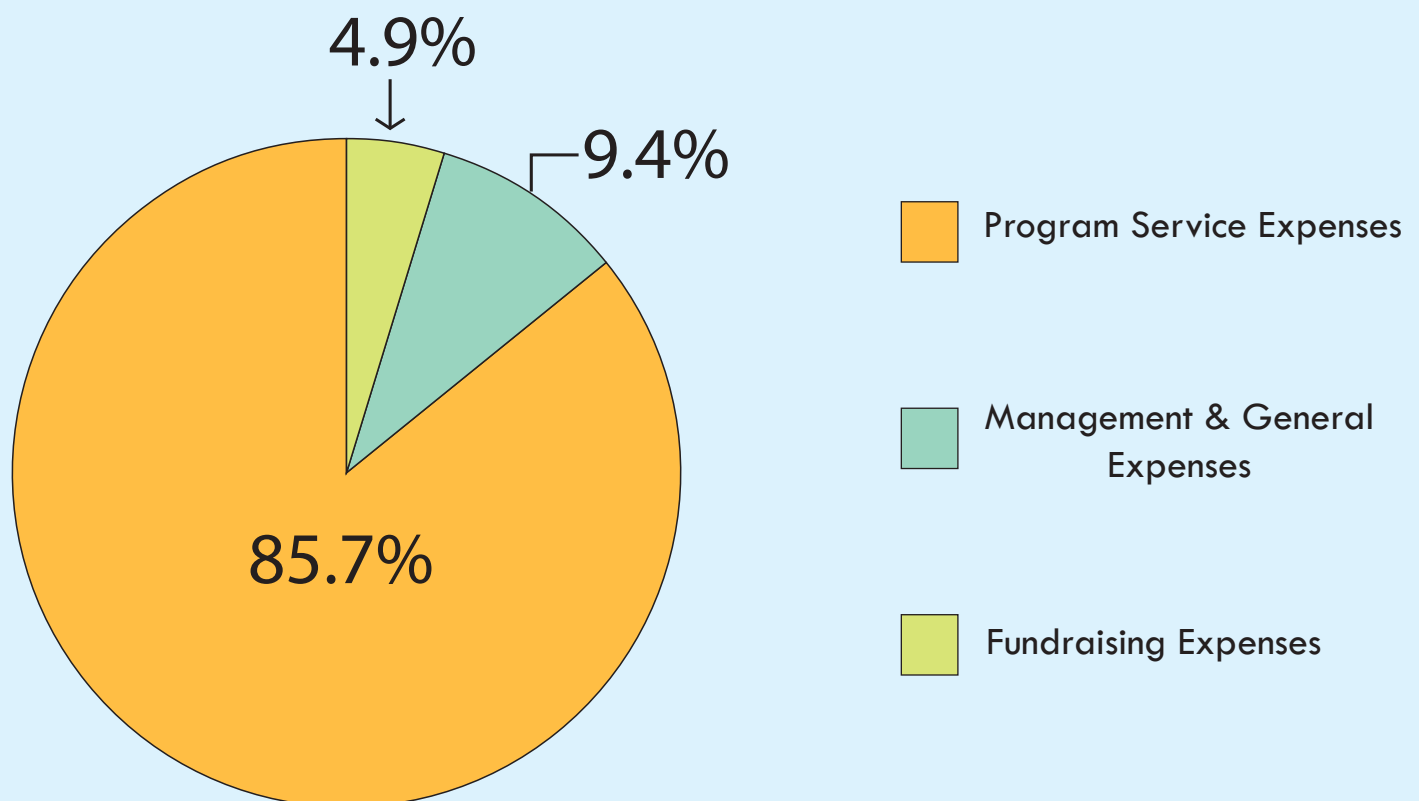
El Buen Pastor Hospital staff

Volunteers loving on the children in Mexico



Financial Summary 2019

Mexican Medical seeks to honor both God and our financial supporters by faithfully stewarding our resources. Two of the ways that we accomplish this is by distributing 100% of all designated and missionary support funds without subtracting a portion to cover administrative costs and by receiving an annual financial review conducted by a peer-reviewed auditor.



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