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La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

Fall 2016

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Our New Home

As you know early this year we were given the opportunity to purchase the building and grounds located at 2042 North Llano in Fredericksburg. The kind folks who owned this property were willing to sell it to us at less than 50% of the actual value.

I am happy to announce to those who have not already heard that we were able to raise the finances to purchase this property. This will allow us to have our offices and our storage away from our home. It will also allow for volunteers to help with the production of newsletters and prepping the supplies for each trip.

It has become our staging area on the morning of departure. Finally it is a major step towards the long term sustainability of the mission. We had been discussing for some time the fact that the mission needs a home. Frankly, with real estate in our area so pricey, I could not see how this was going to be possible. But God!



Our sign in front our mission home. We are so grateful. We are in the process of moving our offices into our new facility. See the photo of the building on page 2

See upcoming trip schedule on page 2

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

By Sara Allerkamp

April 21st found us in Alamos de Marquez facilitating the first of two clinics we hold there annually. I had been thinking ahead on the drive down, how or when I could gather the children together to teach them a song before that evening's service. To my surprise we wrapped up clinic around 5pm. I went to get the CD player from the backseat of the truck, found the CD and began to listen to the song "Yo creo en ti" (I Believe in You). I also grabbed my black marker and poster board to write down the words to the song. Marlena, a child I've known since she was a baby, came and stood by me as I listened to the song in the shade. With Marlena's help, we had the song down on the board. It was about this time that I saw Lorena.

Lorena is the local health care worker. The Mexican government trains someone in the villages primarily as a pharmacist. The problem they all have is that they seldom have enough medications.

I once went to visit her clinic. She was polite and showed me the shelf with the few medications that the government provides for her. She had a few posters encouraging moms to keep their children's vaccinations current. Basically, it was two rooms with next to no supplies for her to do her job.

Lorena had come to see our doctor earlier in the day. While she was there

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Important Notice

Next year Fiesta 2017 will be on August 12th. We are moving our venue to St Mary's fellowship hall. It was already booked for the 1st Saturday so we had to take the 2nd Saturday. Mark your calendar!



Each year for the past 10+ years the "Greater San Marcos Rotary Club" has provided schools packs for the villages we serve. We are so grateful for their participation with us. These children often go without not only because their parents cannot afford these items, but they are far removed from any place to purchase these items.

YEAR IN REVIEW

We have completed all of our medical clinic trips for 2016. We have also done 2 construction trips. The first in Paso de San Antonio and the second was in La Union.

We also acquired property located at 2042 North Llano in Fredericksburg, TX. This will serve as our offices and staging area for our groups departing for

See Year in Review on page 4

Remaining Trips 2016

December 1st -----Centinela Well Child Clinic

December 7th-----Christmas in San Vicente

Medical Trips 2017

Jan 18th -- Jan 22nd----Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos

March 14th - March 18th-San Vicente, La Union and San Miguel

April 19th -- April 23rd ---Alamos de Marquez, Paso De San Antonio and Alamos De San Antonio

May 3rd -- May 7th ----Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos

Sept 20th -- Sept 24th----San Vicente, La Union and San Miguel

Oct 18th -- Oct 22nd----Alamos de Marquez, Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio

Nov---1st-- Thru 5th----- Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos

Other Trips 2017

Jan 3rd---Jan 6th-----Christmas in La Union

June 5th---June 10th-----Construction in La Union??

June 19th---June 24th-----Construction in Paso de San Antonio?

June 29th---July 3rd-----Construction in San Miguel??

July 16th---July 21st-----Local Missions Week

November 30th-----Centinela Well Child Clinic

December 6th-----Christmas in San Vicente??

? - - - -tentative date

?? - - -tentative trip & date



One of the things we love to have on trips is family participation. In this photo children from this side of the border are having fun with children from the other side of the border!



We are so excited about our new mission home. It sits on 1.45 acres in a commercial zone. The Lord provided \$110,000 for us to put a down payment on this property. Our goal is to complete payment, within the next year, of the remaining \$90,000. While we do not normally like to operate with debt, the value of this property is worth more than twice the value of what we had to pay. Would you help us finish securing this property?

Would you consider helping us continue this work?

Our fees received from participants only cover the basic costs of each trip. All of our other expenses are covered by private donations. If you would like to join us on a trip, help with scholarships or donate to our general fund, please let us know. You may also donate on line at misiondecandelilla.org.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/ST/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

- I would like go on a trip to Mexico
- Enclosed is my one-time donation for \$ _____
- Enclosed is my monthly donation for \$ _____
- Enclosed is my donation for the new home \$ _____

Mail to: Mision de Candelilla

888 White Oak Road

Fredericksburg, TX 78624

Phone: 830.997.6542

Email: misiondecandelilla@gmail.com



I told her we had some liquid Ibuprofen to give her for the clinic. She smiled, nodded, and said she'd pick it up after her visit with the doctor.

Lorena is plump with dark brown complexion, a round face, and shiny black hair pulled severely back behind her head. She is married and has two children. She is quiet and soft spoken. Like most women in those villages, she always seemed timid and reserved when speaking to me or any other Americans.

She came to where I was playing the song and she too began to listen and read the words I had written on the poster board. I was surprised that she was there and showing an interest. I told her that I wanted to gather the children to teach them the song. She looked at Marlina and with authority she told her, "Go. Go tell them to come now." Marlina turned and with her younger brother Armando, took off in a run.

In about ten minutes we had a dozen children standing against the cinder block wall of the building in the shade. They ranged in ages from five to twelve. I told them I had a pretty song, (cancion bonita) I wanted to teach them for the night's service. "Do you want to learn it", I asked. Some shouted "Si"! Some did not say a word, just fidgeted a bit. Lorena, quickly became my assistant and as I played the song over and over, she sang it with the children. At one point, between replays, I asked them questions about the lyrics of the song. "What does la creacion (creation) mean? Give me examples of God's creation." They stood quiet. Lorena answered looking at the children, "You know, like the goats and the cattle and the eagle..." The children began to sound off, " the rabbits, horses," After, about ten times of listening to the song, the children were singing with some enthusiasm, especially when I started handing out marbles or coloring books whenever someone participated and answered questions.

After we were done with practice and the children were gone I looked at Lorena. She had a smile and a light in her eyes that did not go away. I can't recall what prompted her to begin to share her story with me, but she told me the following account.

" Sara, I go to a church in San Carlos (a two to two and a half hour drive one way) when I can. I had invited the pastor and his congregation to come today, but as it turned out they could not. "

I was surprised. She told me more.

" When I came to the church services before and you would ask ""does anyone have something they want to share?", I was so afraid and felt paralyzed. I could not even open my mouth to get a word out. But six months ago, when your husband asked if anyone wanted to receive Christ, it was as if someone touched and nudged my back. I found myself

walking up for prayer and I felt calm and unafraid. Since that time I listen to Christian preaching on the television and I go to the San Carlos Church whenever I can. I have changed. I feel different. I try to explain to my friends. It is a wonderful feeling that I have. "

As I listened to her story I was filled with awe and wonder and joy. "Oh God! Thank You!"

"Lorena, I am so happy for you! Keep on! Read the Word." I exhorted her.

That night at the service for the first time ever, Lorena stood up and thanked us for coming and thanked her God for His love.

For you who are reading this story, *this* is the core reason that Misión de Candelilla goes into these sparsely populated villages. When an individual who is living by his/her own wit, opens their heart to God , invites His Son, Jesus, to come in, they cannot help but begin to be transformed by His Living Presence.

After I told my husband Curtis, Lorena's story; he too became joyful for Lorena and excited for her future.

"Sara," Curtis said, "people have asked me, why do you go to such few people? Why don't you go to more populated areas? I am reminded, of the parable of the 99 sheep and how Jesus left them to go look for the one who was lost. He's concerned for the one. He's concerned for the Lorena's of this world. He has called us to the desert to reach out and to love."



Kenny Johnson and Dr Ottis Layne leading worship during devotional time in Paso de San Antonio. Kenny came with us for the 1st time in 2009 as a student from Heritage School.

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Mexico. We are so thankful for this. See the article to in the left column on page 1 titled "Our New Home".

This year has also seen a dramatic shift spiritually. Worship services are much better attended. They are also much more meaningful as the people participate much more intensely. Across the board we are seeing a revival in the villages. We are so excited about these developments.

Below is a more detailed description of mission activities this year.

January 8th found us headed for Boquillas. We usually encounter more cold and flu patients during winter trips. This trip was no exception. We handed out almost all the cold and flu medications that we had. During this trip we held clinics in Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos.

March 8th the team took off without Sara and me. I had become seriously ill 3 days before the team departed. The team departed under the leadership of Bruce Ivers to San Vicente. I am replaceable! Thank you Lord! While there were some minor glitches, they did just fine without me. During this trip the group held clinics in San Vicente, La Union and San Miguel.

March 30 Sara and I headed out to Paso de San Antonio to take inventory of our medications. All went well and we had a great time visiting with Martha Alvarado who is our main contact there.

April 20th found us in Alamos de Marquez. This is one of my favorite places. Medical clinics went well. As usual the clinic in Alamos de San Antonio was very busy. Worship services were well attended. During this trip we held clinics in Alamos de Marquez, Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio.

May 19th we went Piedras Negras to drop off a trailer with Manuel Faz. We gave Manuel the money needed to purchase materials for a construction project to take place in June. After a lovely time with Manuel and his wife we took off to check on our supplies in Muzquiz. From there we traveled to La Union to meet with Esteban to discuss the building project. From there we traveled to San Miguel and visited with Pepe to discuss building plans at our facility there. Then we traveled west across the desert to Paso de San Antonio. Our purpose to go there was 2 fold. First, Martha Alvarado had recently lost her brother and we wanted to comfort her. She was greatly touched! The other was to check on a project there that we planned to do in first week of June. We arrived home on the 21st exhausted but very satisfied that each encounter we had was ordained by the Lord.

May 29th I met with Manuel Faz in Piedras Negras to pick up the trailer he had loaded with materials for the project in La Union. From there we drove to La Union and unloaded the materials. We arrived back in Piedras Negras at 3:30 AM on the 30th.

June 6th found us traveling with a group from Hill Country Church to Paso de San Antonio to complete work on the clinic building there. In addition we did some repairs on the church. It was a great team that completed what we had set out to do. We had VBS every day with children from the region. We arrived home on the 11th, with 2 days to get ready for the next group.

On June 14th we left with a group from Holy Ghost Lutheran Church to do a project in La Union. It was an awesome group. The projects there went well. The children were blessed with 3 days of vacation bible school as the team built a pavilion that can be used as a gathering place for the community. On our last night there we held a church service in this new pavilion. We returned home on the 18th to get ready for the next trip leaving on June 22nd.

June 22nd found us heading towards Boquillas to do the second of our

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annual medical clinics there. We had a good team. We in held clinics in Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos. Clinics were well attended as were the worship services. We returned home on June 26th to begin prep for local missions week.

On July 5th Bruce Ivers and I took off to go to the installation dinner for the Piedras Negras Rotary club. We enjoyed our visit with the club. We left Piedras Negras at 11:30pm.

July 17th we facilitated "Local Missions Week" with students from Heritage school. We camp them out at the river on our place. After morning devotionals, teams would take off to go do local service projects. Some of the team would also visit our local "Boys and Girls Club" to read with the children there. They would then return home to have a late lunch and a little down time before, they went back into town to assist with vacation bible school at Heritage School. We sent them home on the July 22nd.

August 1st Fiesta 2016 was a great success. While our numbers were a little down this year, all involved felt it was our best Fiesta to date. The net outcome was over \$27,000!

September 21st and we are on the road to San Vicente. This is always our most difficult trip, primarily because the road to San Vicente is very bad. The last 20 miles take nearly 2 hours and that is pushing it. This trip proved to be no exception as I got our truck stuck in a washout. We held clinics in San Vicente, La Union and San Miguel. The clinics ran very smoothly and the worship services were outstanding. We clearly see the Lord moving in all of the villages.

October 19th we sent a group out without Sara or me. Sara had to attend a convention and I was down in my back. Thank the Lord, because Bruce and Suzy Ivers were going on this trip. I had been hoping to have a little more training time with Bruce on this trip and then turn him loose next year on his own. They did an outstanding job! Next year they will take a burden off of Sara and me as they lead two trips. The group held clinics in Alamos de Marquez, Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio.

We will close out the year with a "Well Child Clinic" in Centinela Dec. 1st and a Christmas trip to San Vicente on December 7th. Then we will begin 2017 with a Christmas trip to La Union on January 3rd.