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La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

October 2015

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Children of Alamos De Marquez. We started going to this Ejido in 2004. This tiny village has less than 100 people living in it. They no longer have enough children to merit a school teacher. Our clinic here ranges from 30 to 50 patients. Many come from surrounding ranches.

Year in Review

December 30th thru January 3rd

This year actually began last year. Sara and I prepped the trip but we did not go by design, as we are working hard to position the mission of "life without us", in the event that it becomes necessary. The trip went well. It was very cold that week and as result clinic visits were down.

March 10th thru 14th

Spring Break found us in San Vicente, La Union and San Miguel. We saw approximately 150 patients on this trip. We also had an optometrist go with us as well.

April 15th thru 19th

Another trip without Sara and I. Sara had a meeting to attend and I was struggling with severe shoulder pain. The group held clinics in Alamos de Marquez, Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio.

June 8th thru 13th

Hill Country Evangelical Free Church sponsored a construction trip to Paso de San Antonio. We screened in a porch on the clinic building there while,

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Ninety-Nine Plus One

by Sara Allerkamp

It was way past dark. The group was exhausted. I was exhausted! The day had been a long one. Ninety-nine people had come to our clinic that day in San Miguel. I slumped down on a folding chair. The church service had started an hour and a half earlier and now Fidencia had her Sunday School class of children singing "Open the Eyes of My heart" in Spanish. I looked to the front of me then to the right and noticed Pepe, our friend, speaking to Curtis. Curtis made eye contact with me and signaled for me to come over.

Our day had begun in La Union that morning. Curtis was up at 4:30 am, I was up around 6 am, and the rest of the group began to wake up on their own between 6 and 7 am. We had breakfast, then a devotional. After the devotional, we washed dishes and packed up all of our gear to make the two hour drive to San Miguel.

We arrived in San Miguel around 10:30 am. It was September 26th the day was sunny, clear, and warming up by the hour. Already a dozen people were there waiting for us and a few minutes later that number had grown to two dozen. People continued to come throughout the day.

The group went into overdrive as Robert Maycott and Martin Martinez set up the registration table with the patients' medical records. We took out box after box of medications

and set up the pharmacy. Cindy Taylor set up the ultrasound machine and EKG in another room. Doctors LeBlanc and Cornett pulled out their otoscopes and tongue blades and we put three chairs in each of their "offices". Twelve year old Mary Cornett asked for a table so that she and her ten year old brother Otto could get out their coloring books, balls, and other games that they had brought to minister to the children.

There were all types of medical complaints: muscular aches and pains, joint pains, requests for more medication for high blood pressure, diabetes, and arthritis medications. (Our pharmacy provides enough for six months at a time.) There were gynecological complaints, requests for fetal ultrasounds, gall bladder stones and other types of stomach complaints, and depression, minor surgical procedures, etc.

The group broke for a quick lunch at 2 pm then continued seeing patients until 9 pm that night. The total number of patient contacts had been ninety-nine.

At eight pm a church service had started at Pepe and Fidencia's front yard. Pastors Michael Meek and Robert Maycott had gone on ahead of us. Michael had been asked to preach and Martin Martinez had agreed to interpret for him.

By the time the rest of the group arrived, the church service was in full swing with a local Christian band from a nearby village singing for the

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2016 Medical Trips

January 6th thru 10th

Boquillas

March 8th thru 12th

San Vicente

April 20th thru 24th

Alamos De Marquez

June 22nd thru 26th

Boquillas

September 21st Thru 25th

San Vicente

October 19th thru 23rd

Alamos De Marquez

December 1st thru 2nd

Well Child Clinic in Centinela



2015 Non Medical Trips

December 2nd thru 5th

Christmas in San Vicente

December 19th thru 22nd

Christmas in La Union

2016 Non Medical Trips

June 7th thru 12th

*Efree trip to Paso de San Antonio***

July 17th thru 22nd

Local Missions Week

December 7th thru 10th

Christmas in San Vicente

December 17th thru 20th

*Christmas in La Union**

We will be scheduling more Well Child Clinics and other non medical trips by the end of the year. Please check our website for more details.

misiondecandelilla.org

*tentative trip

** tentative date



Mary and Otto Cornet play with the children of San Vicente. We love to have families with children come with us. They provide such an important ministry to children of the villages. Notice the building behind Mary. We built this with the assistance of Heritage School and Rotary District 5840's Hunger-Plus committee. It is one of our best clinic buildings. We have been bringing groups to San Vicente since 1999. It is located right on the Rio Bravo (Rio Grande's name in Mexico) across from Big Bend National Park.

Save The Date Fiesta 2016 is scheduled for August 6th!

Review continued

a team conducted vacation bible school in the afternoons with the children of Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio.

June 24th thru 28th

We held clinics in Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos. It was very hot. We had lots of musicians on this team and we were treated to a Blue Grass version of Amazing Grace during our first devotion in Boquillas. The last night in Jaboncillos they stayed up Jammin until 11PM despite the fact they needed to get up early next morning.

July 20th thru 25th

Local Missions Week. This is the 4th year in succession that we have facilitated a local project while holding a city wide vacation bible school. We had as many as 57 children attend VBS. This is the second year our project was making improvements at the local Girls and Boys Club

August 1st

Fiesta 2015 was a huge success. We raised nearly \$30,000 after expenses. Shilo Harris was our guest speaker. Everyone agreed that it was an enjoyable evening.

September 23rd thru 27th

Our second San Vicente trip was a tremendous success. We saw 170 + patients. One hundred of which we saw in San Miguel. Despite all of the hard work no one on the team complained. All of our clinics ended late, so late in fact that we ate dinner each night after church.

October 14th thru 18th

Our final medical trip of the year went back to Alamos de Marquez, Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio. We were a bit short-handed on this trip. There were only nine of us. Again we had a great crew. We still have three trips to go this year. Two Christmas trips and one Well Child Clinic are all scheduled in December.

The following is a list of all that we have accomplished this year as a result of all these activities

1. 18 medical clinics

Our clinics provide not only doctor visits but we do lab work, EKGs, and ultra sounds. All of our patients get all of their medications free of charge including the chronically ill. We give them enough medications to last until we return 6 months later.

2. 3 construction projects

We completed the screening of a porch in Paso de San Antonio. We painted the fence we built the year before at our local boys and girls club and we funded the adding of a room to our clinic in San Miguel.

3. 24 worship services

Whether we are in Mexico or in Texas we facilitate worship services in the evenings.

4. 39 devotionals with teams

Every morning starts with a devotional after breakfast is served. We have found that the teams are deeply blessed by focusing our time on the Lord.

5. Other facts

- A. 7 days of vacation bible school were facilitated including 4 locally.
- B. 135 volunteers have traveled with us.
- C. 9,000 volunteer hours donated
- D. 25,000 miles on mission vehicles on very difficult roads.
- E. Value of medical services provided exceed well over \$1,000,000
- F. Value of service projects provided this year is roughly \$20,000



Aida Rios of Belton, TX enjoys a moment with the children in Alamos De Marquez. Aida served as interpreter for P.A. Jovanna Hubbard.



P.A. Hubbard enjoys a quiet moment in the new porch added on to the clinic in Paso De San Antonio this past summer. This was her 1st trip with us. She hails from Johnson City.



99 + 1 continued

congregation in the semi-darkness. The women and children sat in the metal chairs, most of the boys and men stood, leaning against parked trucks. It was almost ten pm and Michael Meek was still scheduled to preach

It was at this time that I saw Curtis signaling me to come over. As I got there he said, "Pepe says someone has an emergency. Pepe looked at me and said in Spanish, "There is a lady, whose sister is sitting in a truck who got bit by an animal."

Pepe did not know what kind of animal and my imagination saw some torn skin. I spotted Dr. Mary Martha Leblanc sitting on a big rock at the back of the yard. I walked up to her and repeated what Pepe had told me.

She got up and we both were led to a woman standing by a small truck. She was in her fifties, her hair was almost bleached blond and dry. Dr. Leblanc used her head lamp to take a better look at her. Her lips & cheeks were swollen. She was rubbing and scratching her left lower arm, which was red and swollen. Her sister, who looked sunburned and tired and who had had a few alcoholic beverages did most of the talking. Her sister had been stung by an "avispa", a wasp, she told us. It was clear to us that she was having an allergic reaction to it. Thank God she was not having trouble breathing.

Dr. LeBlanc told them, "We have to go to our clinic. You need some medicine." Curtis, Dr. Leblanc, Cindy Taylor and I jumped into the back of the truck that her sister was driving. This was a little scary as it was obvious that she had been drinking. We arrived at our clinic without incident.

Dr. LeBlanc instructed me to draw up 50 mg of Benadryl and administer it in the muscle. Curtis held his flashlight so I could see what I was doing. We also gave the

lady some medication to take by mouth. The doctor reassured her that she would be fine.

We waved as they drove away saying, "Que Dios te bendiga", God bless you. My heart was touched by these two middle-age sisters living together in poverty.

Curtis looked at Dr. LeBlanc and said, "That was patient number **one hundred.**"

I know that Christ, through us, had demonstrated compassion and care for both of the ladies. My prayer is that the two sisters have the assurance that they are much loved by God the Father and Jesus Christ the Saviour.

We returned to the worship service which ended at 11PM. We all enjoyed a meal of Carne con Papas (meat with potatoes), frijoles (beans), and tortillas in Pepe's home. We enjoyed conversation around the table with the great satisfaction of knowing that our work had touched lives. Praise God! Now we would get a little sleep under the big sky of the Chihuahuan desert before we traveled home.

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: _____

- Contact me about joining a trip to Mexico
- Enclosed is my one-time donation for \$ _____
- Enclosed is my monthly donation for \$ _____
- Contact me to sponsor a volunteer\$ _____

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Our Vision and Sustainability committee met this week. It was concluded that the board would be the primary driver for raising funds for new vans. If you would like to contribute or help with this drive please call David Turpin at 310-497-3688 or Kelly Graham at 405-334-1999.