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La Palabra De Dios En El Desierto

August-September 2019

Page 1

Miracles of the Heart

Act I

An elderly man sits on the front of a church service. He appears to be weary. He is holding his hand as if he is experiencing pain. He seems distant in his thoughts. As the camera pans in you hear the voice of his thoughts. "Why am I here? After all of these years of lovingly caring for these people, why are they still so divided with their petty differences? Will it ever change?" You can see the disillusionment begin to spread across his sun weathered face. He looks around. He is surrounded by Mexican people and a group of young Gringos from the U.S. His gaze does not seem to see his surroundings.

Up front, an elderly Mexican pastor is singing songs (off key) in Spanish (Corritos). The outdoor service on a porch does not let the sound carry well, nevertheless the people are singing the corritos with him as they have been for years.

Miracles continued on page 2



During our clinic in April, the children in Alamos de San Antonio love the opportunity for arts and crafts.



Maddie welcomes a happy little boy in San Miguel over the Christmas gift-giving trip!



Our crew replacing the siding on the clinic building in January.

Fiesta 2019 Honors the Mission's Founder

Our Fiesta fundraiser was held on August 10 at the Venue at Rafter E Ranch. The event was filled with great fellowship, reunions, testimonies, songs, and an outpouring of generosity. Along with the new beautiful venue, the guests enjoyed wonderful food from Chilitos, a catering company from Boerne. As it is every year, Fiesta was an absolute celebration of all that the Lord has done in and through Mision de Candelilla.

This year's honorary chair was Camey Stewart. Camey has been a major supporter of Mision de Candelilla for many years. Aside from giving witness of the work the mission has done, she led the Fiesta in honoring her dear friend, Sara Allerkamp. After 34 years on the mission field to Mexico, Sara

Fiesta 2019 continued on page 2



In January, we celebrated Sara's retirement from Mision de Candelilla. Though she remains in the mission family, we still miss her very much!



Fiesta 2019 Continued...

retired in January of this year from her duties as Co-Director. Sara is a bit of a folk hero in both this community, and in Northern Mexico. A selfless self-starter, there is nothing that will stop Sara from answering the call God has put on her life.

From opening the Good Samaritan Center here in Fredericksburg, to bringing medicine to isolated communities in Mexico, Sara has not only changed lives, but **SAVED LIVES** on both sides of the border. As she gave her life's story at Fiesta, we felt inspired to continue the work that she has laid the ground work for. Mision de Candelilla would not be where it is today if not for her faithfulness. Sara, we love you, and thank you for all you've done for this world.



Dr. Michael giving a check up to our friend Pepe Espinosa during our Las Norias clinic in May. Our clinics continue to reach more and more lives, and the reach has been incredible this year.



Our Holy Ghost and St. Mary's team fed the entire village of La Union over the Christmas break! They were such a fun group, and the village sure did enjoy some good Texas BBQ!



In June, a group of high school kids eagerly repaint the clinic in San Miguel. We enjoy seeing our colors on a building now! The beautiful white, and inch-worm green! Well done guys.

Miracles continued...

A deep sadness has crept across the face of the elderly gentleman. His white beard and semi white hair seem even more profound than at first glance. You hear the sound of his thoughts again, "I have to preach in 30 minutes and I do not have a clue what to say. Along with disillusionment, his face now appears very troubled. "After 25 years and nothing has changed..... I wish I had not agreed to do a service tonight. We have a long drive home tomorrow. Then I have to prep for the next trip and this injured hand will make it difficult. Better to do a brief closure devotional with the group and get them to bed early..... I have to find something to share with the people."

He reaches down and picks up his Bible. He opens it and begins to read and as he does so you hear his thoughts again, "Romans 8:26, maybe I should share this.....No this is not it....." He lays his open bible down. The sound of the Corritos fades away. The pastor stops to ask if anyone has a song to sing or a testimony to share.

Act II

The pastor's wife, an elderly Mexican woman with a young smile and cheerful eyes, is leading children from the village in song. As they sing they lift their hands in their praise to God. A slight smile comes to the elderly gentleman's face. His thoughts say, "So this is why she asked me to have another service tonight. I am glad for this. But nothing has really changed." The pages of his bible flutter in the wind and as he sees it out of the corner of his eye, **[see page 4]**

August-September 2019

Medical Trips Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Sept 11th -- Sept 15th-----San Vicente, La Union and San Miguel

Oct 2nd -- Oct 6th -----Alamos de Marquez, Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio

Nov 6th -- Nov 10th -- Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos

March 10th—14th-----San Vicente, La Union and San Miguel

March 25th—29th -----Alamos de Marquez, Paso de San Antonio and Alamos de San Antonio

April 22nd—26th----- Boquillas, Las Norias and Jaboncillos



The before and after of our clinic in Boquillas! Thanks to the funds and efforts of New Braunfels Rotary Club and Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, we were able to renovate the building, inside and out, within 2 trips in January and June. This is now quite the most beautiful, and functional clinic we use! Praise God!!!

Mary's Testimony

The trips to Mexico allow me to almost cleanse myself of reality and the stress of school, social life, and extra-curricular activities. My mind and eyes become aware that most things I stress over will not be important, in say, 10 years. Things such as spending a whole evening trying to figure out what to wear the next day, or stressing too much over grades in school. I'm also cleansed due to there being no phone service any of the time. Honestly, it's kind of relieving not having to stay up with social media, or even having to talk to people back in the States. I can just put the "perfect picture, perfect comment" life in the back of my head, and breathe. When it's time to turn airplane mode off

and reconnect, it's almost a burden to see the rush of notifications come onto the screen.

Another great aspect of the medical mission trips specifically is that you become completely selfless. You don't think about what you look like, or what people think of you because you are helping people (sometimes in ways that can save lives). This fills me up throughout the trip and makes me go back home on what some might call a "Jesus high". God's great and beautiful love can easily be seen when you just open your eyes to the bigger picture outside of your personal bubble.

Mary Cornett is a 16-year-old at FHS.



(Above) Mary Cornett leads Holy Ghost Lutheran youth group in worship at the June church service in Boquillas. (Below), Elena Walch gives a piggy back ride to a very excited little girl in Mexico during the play time at Vacation Bible School in San Miguel



In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. Romans 8:26



Our group of high schoolers sang for the villagers in San Miguel. This was one of the most touching moments we have ever experienced in all of our years. The freedom, joy, and love of God was felt in this moment. We will never forget that this is why we do what we do.



Izzy Ahrens & Kenny enjoying their time on the roof after a hard day's work in Boquillas. Izzy has been coming to Mexico since she was a baby, and is a joy to all those whom she encounters!

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. **This coming year we are focusing on elevating our monthly donations. Would you consider becoming a monthly donor?** You may also donate on line at mdcmexico.org/donate

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- Enclosed is my one-time donation for \$ _____
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Fredericksburg, TX 78624
Phone: 830.997.6542

Email: misiondecandelilla@gmail.com

he reaches over, picks it up and begins to read. As he reads a slightly broader smile comes on his face. "Ah Romans 5. I have been thinking about this topic since the first of the year. Thank you, Lord". The children have finished their songs and a few more people 1 by 1 get up and share testimonies.

Now the youth group (Gringos) get up to share a couple of songs of worship. Their second song is Good Good Father. A smile comes on the elderly gentleman's face. "This is one of my favorite songs....." As the group continues to sing, four of the young ladies in the group begin to shed tears of joy as they experience the love of the Father in worship.

Suddenly tears of joy begin to flow on the gentleman's face. As the tears reach his beard, we hear his thoughts, "This is why I am here. If all the years of work were just for this moment it would be worth this! Thank you, Lord!" Suddenly his face seems much younger.....

Act III

The now not so elderly looking gentleman reads Romans Chapter 5:1-5. He begins to share his thoughts on perseverance. After he shares for about 10 minutes we see his gaze fixed on a middle aged Mexican man who has tears flowing down his face. As he continues to preach his mind drifts a bit, "I know him. He is our neighbor who lost his adult son 3 months ago. Father, you are so good. If nothing else this message is for him." He finishes his message on Perseverance and closes his bible. A middle-aged Mexican preacher gets up and closes the message with an invitation to salvation.....

Act IV

The elderly man is now driving a white pickup down a desert road. Beside him on the front seat is a young man in his mid-twenties. They are having idle conversation. "This little ejido is called *La Salada* the elderly gentleman says." No response just a nodding of the head from the young man. They pass through another village and as they do so the elderly gentleman thinks, "I remember the first time I came here in 2004." Five miles down the road as they cross through a large ravine the elderly gentleman begins to look at his hand strangely. He holds it up to his face as if to examine it. This goes on for several minutes repeatedly. Each time a more astonished look comes across his face. Finally, he turns to the young man and says, "Remember how I burned my hand with the hot stew last night. While I was at the service last night, I was thinking how difficult preparation for the next trip was going to be. The inside of my hand was bright red and there were blisters forming between my fingers where the chunks of stew had lodged. I just remembered it a few moments ago and realized I had no pain. I looked at my hand.....he lifts it up to show the young man his hand...look no blisters...no sign of a burn at all." The scene fades away as they continue conversation.

Cast
Elderly man.....Oso Blanco Elderly Mexican Pastor.....Jose Ramon Espinosa Ramirez (Pepe)
Pastor's wife.....Fidencia (Fidi) Gringo youth group.....Catholics from Fredericksburg, TX
Middle-aged Mexican preacher...Martin Martinez Young man in Pickup.....Kenny Johnson